'ACCIDENT,' HE SAYS, BUT CHILD'S MOTHER, BROTHER SAY 'NO NO'

Montgomery All Excited Over Affair — Thorough Probe by Grand Jury Hinted as Citizens Demand Investigation.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 30—Stating in effect that on inquiry he had found the facts bore out the explanation offered by City Patrolman E. W. Hamilton (white), that the shooting of Dorothy Greenwood, 13-year-old girl, as she sat with her mother by an open fire in their humble North Montgomery home last Saturday was "pure accident," Police Commissioner W. P. Screws has announced that further investigation of the incident is "unjustified and unnecessary." He added it was "just one of those unfortunate things," and that there was "really no motive for the shooting."

SAYS PISTOL "WENT OFF" AND STRUCK GIRL

The officer who fired the bullet that entered the brain of the girl who is still in a critical condition at a local hospital, said in a signed statement that he and a fellow officer, J. R. Rudder, were cruising through the section last Saturday afternoon in a squad car when they were stopped by a man neither of them knew, and told there was another man with a pistol at 44 Race street, raising a disturbance. He said they hurried to the address, and while Officer Rudder stationed himself in front of the house, he entered the rear door, drawing his pistol, and went in a back room, where a woman was washing dishes. He said he told the woman the police had received a call to the house and, when she did not reply he went into an adjoining room, where a woman and a girl were sitting in front of a fireplace.

He said he told this second woman he had a call to the house on account of someone "raising sand" there; that she told him there was no trouble that she knew of; that while they conversed he had his pistol in his hand with the weapon cocked, and that "by some means or other" it "went off" and the bullet struck the girl in the head.

Stating he then called an ambulance and had the girl rushed to a hospital, he said he had no "hard feelings" toward anyone in the house, that he did not intend to shoot the girl or anyone else, and that the shooting was "pure accident."

MOTHER AND BROTHER TELL DIFFERENT STORY

The girl's mother, and her brother, James Greenwood, however, gave a different version of what occurred. The brother stated the officer entered the house from the rear flourishing a pistol, and crying, "I got a call out here" and demanded to know who was "raising hell" at the same time pointing the gun at his face. The brother said he threw up his hands, and while he was trying to explain to the officer that there was no trouble there and he must have come to the wrong house, the policeman, noting the girl and her mother sitting by the fire, cursed, and pointing the pistol at the girl, fired. His mother shreiked as the girl sank to the floor, he said, and the officer then shifted the gun back to him and told him to sit down and not to make a move.

The mother corroborated the account of the shooting given by her son, including his statement that the policeman prevented the immediate calling of an ambulance which was finally summoned by radio, also that as he walked out of the house, his brother-officer asked him what he "wanted to shoot that little girl for?" and that he replied, "Shut up!"

The girl's father, who arrived shortly after the shooting, said Officer Hamilton said he fired because he thought "someone was trying to get away."

The shooting of the girl caused widespread indignation, discussion and comment throughout the city, and it is understood the incident will be accorded a thorough investigation by the Montgomery County Grand Jury at its next meeting.

Negro's Fatal Shooting Declared Justifiable

The fatal shooting by police Saturday afternoon of an accused Ensley Negro shoplifter Tuesday had been listed by Coroner Gip M. Evans as "justifiable homicide."

Coroner Evans returned the finding after investigation in the death of Henry D. Bush, 1713 Avenue D, Ensley, showed the Negro a shoplifter, had resisted and escaped from Deputy Sheriff R. F. McDonald, and eluded two Birmingham police officers for more than six blocks.

Further evidence in the case showed that Bush knocked down one of the officers and failed to halt when commanded to do so by the fallen officer's buddy.

Wounded by two bullets from Officer H. O. Hicks' revolver, Bush ran to the steps of the Shortridge Funeral Home in Ensley where he died.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Supreme Court Saves Alabaman

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) — For the second time since his conviction for murder by the Alabama supreme court, Joe Vernon, of Birmingham, has been granted a stay of execution by the United States supreme court.

His second stay was granted Thursday, a few hours before his scheduled electrocution, and is effective until the justices pass on Vernon's petition for review of the Alabama court's action. Justice Felix Krankfurter on Jan. 30 gave Vernon a reprieve just prior to the time he was first scheduled to be electrocuted.

In his petition to the high court, Vernon said that his conviction on a charge of murdering Ben Montgomery, white, took place before a jury from which Negroes were "intentionaly and systematically excluded."

A Life For Shoes And Gloves

Negro Fugitive Dies On Steps Of Undertaking Parlor After Battle With Policemen Here

Henry D. Bush, a Negro, paid with his life Saturday afternoon at an undertakIng parlor for one pair of shoes and one pair of work gloves.

With two bullets from blazing police revolvers in his body, Bush raced to the steps of the Shortridge Undertaking Parlor, 311 Seventeenth Street, Ensley, and died.

And had Bush not dropped one of the shoes as he was leaving the Silver store in Ensley, where police say he lifted the shoes and gloves, he probably would be alive today. But in his nervous haste, he dropped the shoe.

Deputy R. F. McDonald, a county warden, happened to see the incident. He sought to apprehend Bush, who resisted.

And again coincidence entered the story that was to end at the undertaking parlor steps. While Deputy McDonald struggled with Bush, City Officers Horace O. Hicks and E. T. Rouse happened by.

When they stopped to investigate Bush fled, the officers hot in pursuit.

The hunted Negro headed for his home, 1713 Avenue D, Ensley, where he quickly grabbed a pistol. Officer Rouse followed Bush into the house, where another struggle ensued. The police officer was pushed beneath the table and Bush was shot one time in the side.

Bush fled from the house and ran headon into Officer Hicks at the corner of the house. Bush kept running, failing to heed the commands of the police officer to halt.

The policeman fired one time. Bush stumbled and kept running. He ran to the steps of the undertaking parlor, where death overtook him.

Tuscaloosa Ala., News
January 31, 1941

Kilby Negroes Given Reprieve

Stay Of Execution Comes Five Minutes Before Death Hour

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 31—(AP)—Eleventh-hour action by Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter in Washington and an executive reprieve here saved two Birmingham negroes from electrocution at Kilby Prison early today.

Joe Vernon and L. C. Bell, convicted of the robbery-slaying of Bennie Montgomery, filling station attendant, had been prepared for execution when Warden Earl Wilson received word shortly before midnight that a stay of execution had been granted for Vernon.

Negro and white prison chaplains, a Catholic priest and a Salvation Army major were holding "last" services for the negroes as the warden entered death row at 11:55 p. m. (CST)—five minutes before the electric current was due to be applied—and told the negroes of their new lease on life.

Leaping into the air and shouting, Bell told Warden Wilson:

"I'm the gladdest negro in Kilby tonight. Some may be going free tomorrow, but I'm happier than any."

Eight or ten other men in the death row cheered.

Justice Frankfurter granted Vernon a stay of execution to allow counsel for the negro time in which to file a writ of certiorari, seeking a review of the state supreme court's action denying a writ of habeas corpus.

Action of the Supreme Court justice followed a dramatic series of events yesterday.

Governor Frank M. Dixon denied reprieves for the negroes. Then the Alabama Supreme Court sustained a lower court's action in denying Vernon's plea for a writ of habeas corpus. Vernon's counsel based their plea on a contention that negroes were excluded from the jury that indicted him.

Frantic, last minute efforts were made. Attornel Walter Smith called Washington associates. Finally, Leon A. Ransom counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, obtained a stay.

Supreme Court attaches telephoned Warden Wilson and Attorney General T. S. Lawson and directed them to halt the execution of Vernon.

Roland Mushat, Governor Dixon's secretary, then announced a reprieve for Bell.

Ransom said in Washington he understood the stay granted by Justice Frankfurter was for the usual period of 90 days

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Violence Accounts For 274 Deaths In '40; '39 Record Was 322

84 Homicides Reported By Investigator Evans; Auto Accidents Kill 150

BY EDDIE BADGER

Jefferson County "saved" 48 lives during 1940.

Statistics supplied by County Investigator Gip M. Evans showed Friday that violence — homicides, suicides and accidents—claimed that many fewer lives last year, as compared with 1939. There were 274 violent deaths in Jefferson during 1940, compared to 322 in '39.

The figures supplied by Evans showed that during 1940 the deaths of 84 persons, 12 whites and 72 Negroes, were attributed to homicides, as compared with 109 for 1939. Twenty-six white persons and 83 Negroes accounted for the 109 total in 1939.

Twelve fewer persons were killed in accidents, Evans said. Statistics for 1940 showed that 89 white persons and 61 Negroes lost their lives in accidents in 1940. The previous year accidents had claimed the lives of 93 white persons and 69 Negroes for a total of 162.

Forty persons, according to Evans, were suicides in 1940. The total of 38 white persons and two Negroes was, however, 11 less than for the preceding year, when 49 white persons and two Negroes took their own lives.

JAN 3 1941

During 1940, Evans' report showed, there were no white homicides in January, April, May, June, August and September. There were three white homicides in February. Only one Negro homicide was listed for January, 1940, but all other months had at least four, with the high of 13 being registered in June.

Sixteen of the 89 white persons who lost their lives in accidents last year were reported in the month of January, while the largest number of Negro deaths from accidents, 11, was recorded in February.

With 11 less white persons being listed as suicides in 1940, the number of Negroes taking their own lives was the same—two. In 1939, there was a white suicide in every month, but in 1940 there were no white suicides in June.

Although there were 48 fewer deaths from violence, Evans' work did not decrease in 1940. He investigated a total of 459 natural deaths, an increase of 52 over 1939. The number of natural deaths brought the total cases handled through Evans' office to 733, or an increase of four over the aggregate for 1939.

Condemned Negroes Are Granted Dramatic Stays Of Execution

Pair Sentenced To Die For Youth's Slaying Gets Last-Minute Reprieves

JAN 31 1941

Associate Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter Friday had lent a new dramatic angle to the four-year-old Bennie Montgomery murder, when the jurist late Thursday night granted a 90-day stay of execution for Joe Vernon, Negro, a few moments before he was to go to the electric chair to pay the state's price for the slaying.

L. C. Bell, another Negro convicted with Vernon in the Montgomery slaying, was granted a stay of execution by Gov. Frank M. Dixon on the basis of Justice Frankfurter's ruling in the Vernon case.

Only Thursday Gov. Dixon had declined to grant reprieves for the two Negroes, while the Montgomery County Circuit Court denied a motion for a stay of execution which was upheld a short time later by the Alabama Supreme Court.

Attorneys for Vernon based their appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court on the ground Negroes were excluded from the jury that indicted him.

Both Vernon and Bell were ready for the death march. The stay of execution reached Warden Earl Wilson at Kilby Prison in Montgomery less than an hour before the time set for the executions.

Attorneys for Vernon, in their plea to Justice Frankfurter, asked for a stay of execution to permit them to file a writ of certiorari. This writ will seek a review of the Alabama Supreme Court's action in denying a writ of habeas corpus. Walter F. Smith was attorney for Vernon.

Youth Found Shot To Death

Bennie Montgomery, a 19-year-old Woodlawn High School youth who worked part-time in a Woodlawn filling station to obtain funds to send him through law school at the University of Alabama, was found shot to death at his filling station about 3:30 a.m., Sept. 21, 1937.

The position of the wound in the body indicated he was shot while he had his hands in the air. Authorities believe he was shot when he declined to reveal where the money was hidden.

Courthouse attaches Friday said nearly every venire called for jury duty in Jefferson County contains one or more Negroes and that the Negroes are eligible to serve on any jury when they qualify to serve in that particular case.

It was 11:55 p.m.—five minutes before the dreaded current was to have snuffed out the life of Vernon, and then Bell, when Warden Wilson entered death row to notify the Negroes of their new lease on life.

Negro and white prison chaplains, a Catholic priest and a Salvation Army major were conducting "last" services. The condemned men's heads had been shaved to receive the electrodes.

There was a tense pause. Wilson stopped at Vernon's cell door and imparted the good tidings.

"I am thankful to God that the United States of America, and the courts and the law that they have granted me this stay at the last minute," Vernon said solomnly.

Bell was more jubilant. Leaping into the air and shouting "whoopee," he told Warden Wilson that "I dreaded to see you coming, because I knew that would be close to the last. But I'm happy now that you came. I'm the gladdest Negro in Kilby tonight. Some may be going free tomorrow, but I'm happier than any."

Eight or 10 other men in death row cheered.

JAN 31 1941

Two Others "Confessed"

Vernon, a boxer, and Bell were arrested long after the slaying and two other Negroes previously had "confessed" to the crime. One of the first "confessions" was made by a Negro named "Mississippi," who was arrested in Nashville and the other was made at Baton Rouge, La.

Arrest of Vernon and Bell came about through the investigation of reports made by hoboes that they had been beaten and robbed by Negroes on the Central of Georgia Railroad near here. One victim identified Vernon as the one who "beat him up." Subsequent questioning led to the Montgomery slaying confessions.

The cases were prosecuted by Asst. Solicitor Robert E. McAdory and Greye Tate, former assistant solicitor. It was recalled Friday that in their confession Vernon and Bell each blamed the actual shooting on the other. An FBI expert was brought here for the trials and he testified that a gun of the same type that was taken from Vernon was used in the filling station slaying.

A Negro woman testified she saw Vernon put the gun in a pan of water and soak it for some time and it was shown to have been at the time Montgomery was slain. The pistol was taken by Vernon from the widow of Charles Norrell, a Birmingham policeman.

Vernon, after his arrest, began reading the Bible almost incessantly, and the Bible was used in his trial, with Tate reading notations he had made. He had written in the Bible that on Sept. 21, the date of the slaying, he had "come to the end of a long, long trail."

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. NEWS
JAN. 12, 1941

Slaying Of Robert F. Perry Listed As Unsolved Crime

County Grand Jury Fails To Indict Widow Of Secret Service Agent In Two-Day Hearing

Slaying of Robert F. Perry, Secret Service agent, was relegated to the list of unsolved crimes Saturday after the County Grand Jury voted not to indict his widow, Mrs. Margaret E. Perry, 31, on a charge of murder.

Although the Grand Jury's action forestalls a trial at this time for Mrs. Perry, who has stoutly maintained her innocence throughout, Alabama law would permit the case to be placed before any subsequent Grand Jury should there be new evidence or other developments.

It was reported unofficially that the Grand Jury voted 15 to 2 against indicting Mrs. Perry, who has been at liberty under $10,000 bond since two days after her arrest and detention in the County Jail Dec. 5. Twelve votes are necessary for indictment.

Found Beaten Unconscious

Perry, who was widely known in the South and who was in charge of the Birmingham Secret Service office, was found beaten and unconscious the night of Nov. 20 in the family apartment, 1301 South Twenty-Ninth Street. He died two days later without having regained consciousness and without identifying his assailant. It was believed by investigating officers that both a weapon similar to a small pick ax and a knife may have been used.

Mrs. Perry discovered the body of her husband when she returned to the apartment after walking her dog and visiting friends. At the time of her arrest, she said that she was resigned to face trial, she "would go to her grave knowing she was innocent and not knowing who killed her husband."

The Grand Jury devoted Wednesday and Thursday to an investigation of the Perry case and heard 17 witnesses, including 10 federal, city and state officers. The case was investigated by Birmingham police, who swore out the warrant, charging Mrs. Perry with murder; the Federal Bureau of Identification and the Secret Service.

Other witnesses in the case included neighbors Mrs. Perry had visited the night her husband was slain, two doctors and the Negro janitor at the apartment house where the Perrys resided.

Solicitor George Lewis Bailes and Assistant Solicitor Jim McK. Long directed the examination of witnesses before the Grand Jury. When the investigation concluded Thursday night, Bailes said he believed the Grand Jury had heard "from every known person who could shed any light on the case with the exception of two ill officers." Solicitor Bailes added, however, he believed the testimony those officers would have given already had been placed before the Grand Jury by their fellow officers.

Chief of Detectives Luther Hollums, at the time of Mrs. Perry's arrest, said she was charged with murder because "two weeks of intensive examination could not reconcile the physical facts in the case with the statement she made on the night her husband was attacked."

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Negro Gets Death In Talladega Case

FEB 26 1941

Julius Jackson Brought To Kilby Under Guard

Julius Jackson, Talladega County negro, was brought to Kilby Prison last night after he had been found guilty and sentenced to death for the first-degree murder of a white man.

A two-day trial ended at 9:30 p.m. yesterday when the Talladega Circuit Court jury returned a verdict of guilty in the slaying of L. P. Shields, sawmill employe, Dec. 14, on a lonely road near Sylacauga.

He was brought to Montgomery, guarded by Highway patrolmen and Talladega County deputies.

Patrol Sergt. C. T. Donaldson, who participated with other patrolmen and deputies in the case, said the negro was apprehended in Elmore County two weeks after the attack on Shields and a woman who was in the car with him.

FEB 26 1941

A watch, found in a well near the negro's home, figured prominently in the evidence leading to Jackson's arrest.

The verdict of guilty was rendered after the jury had been out two-and-a-half hours.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Lawson To Go Before Supreme Court As Man Is Granted Review

APR 9 - 1941

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Atty. Gen. Thomas S. Lawson and an assistant, William Loeb, will represent Alabama in arguments before the U. S. Supreme Court on the appeal of Joe Vernon, Birmingham Negro under death sentence for murder.

The Supreme Court Monday granted Vernon a review, which it twice before had denied, and set the case for argument the week of April 28. Convicted of killing Bennie Montgomery, a Birmingham filling station attendant during a robbery, Vernon based his appeal partly on grounds Negroes were excluded from the Grand Jury that indicted him. APR 9 - 1941

L. C. Bell, convicted jointly with Vernon, has been reprieved by Gov. Dixon from time to time while Vernon's case has been fought in the courts.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro To Be Tried In Policeman's Death

APR 6 1941

ATHENS, Ala.—Robert Redus, 26-year-old Negro and alleged murderer of Bedford F. Brackeen, Athens policeman, will be tried at a special hearing in Circuit Court here May 19, Judge A. A. Griffith, of Cullman, has unofficially announced. Redus is alleged to have fatally shot Brackeen in an early morning altercation at the Athens Bus Station in which he claimed that another policeman who was with Brackeen at the time had insulted his sister the day before. APR 6 1941

At present Redus is held in the Decatur jail, having originally been transferred to the Birmingham jail after his arrest in Nashville where he fled after the shooting.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Supreme Court Saves Alabama Negro Third Time From Execution

APR 12 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Twice saved from executions by last-minute action of the Supreme Court, Joe Vernon, Birmingham, Ala., Negro sentenced to die for murder, was granted a third stay of execution when the nation's highest tribunal on Monday granted a review of his case.

Taking unusual action the Supreme Court vacated an order entered November 12, 1940, which had denied the condemned man a review. A recent petitioned filed by Vernon seeking a review was denied, hut Supreme Court attaches said reversal of the earlier action assured that Vernon's contentions would be passed on. At the same time the court ordered a stay of execution pending the final decision. APR 12 1941

Vernon sought a review of a decision by the Alabama Supreme Court denying him a writ of habeas corpus. Among other things he contended that Negroes had been intentionally and systematically excluded from the jury and that he had been subjected to 3rd degree methods by Birmingham police officers. He was convicted in the Jefferson County Circuit Court of shooting Bennie Montgomery in 1937. APR 12 1941

The United States Supreme Court granted a stay of execution on March 6 pending action on the petition for review. The stay was granted a few hours before the time set for execution. Once before on January 30, Vernon was similarly saved by a stay granted by Justice Frankfurter.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Is Before Court In Death Of Policeman

JUN 2 1941

ATHENS, Ala.—The trial of Robert Redus, 26-year-old Negro, accused of fatally shooting Bedford F. Brackeen, Athens policeman, March 23 opened at a special session of Circuit Court here Monday, with Judge Seybourn Lynne, of Decatur, presiding. Selection of the jury required most of the morning and the trial is likely to last two days or more. Henry D. James, Moulton, attorney and former circuit solicitor, is defense counsel, while the prosecution is represented by Circuit Solicitor Melvin Hutson, of Decatur, and County Solicitor George C. Johnson, of Athens.

Redus is accused of shooting Brackeen in an altercation in which he accused another policeman, J. W. Johnston, who was with Brackeen, of insulting his sister. In the gunfire following Brackeen was shot. The defendant Tuesday pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Alabaman Slays Cop For Insulting Neice

APR 12 1941

ATHENS, Ala., April 10:—When the smoke of battle cleared following a shooting scrape in the downtown section of Athens opposite the bus station, a police officer lay near death from three bullet wounds and his assailant had temporarily escaped from the scene. Robert Redus, 26, is confined to the Birmingham jail for safe keeping following his capture in Nashville, Tenn., last Tuesday, and is awaiting trial after being indicted for first degree murder by the Grand Jury sitting here Wednesday.

Redus fatally wounded Bedford F. Brackeen, night policeman, in a gun battle early Sunday morning. He waived extradition following his capture in Tennessee and was brought back to face Alabama justice. The trial date has not been set. APR 12 1941

COP DENIES SLAPPING TEACHER

According to Policeman Bill Johnston, who was with Brackeen at the time, they were parked in a prowl car opposite the bus terminal when Redus drove up, got out of his car and walked over to their car and asked to speak to Johnston. An argument between the two started when Redus accused the officer of slapping his niece, Miss Lillie May Redus, public school teacher, when he went to her house last Saturday to demand the return of a bicycle to a Nashville store.

Johnston denied slapping the young woman and said Redus pulled a gun and started shooting. Brackeen jumped from the police car and joined in the gun-play while Redus took refuge behind his own car. During the exchange of gun-fire, Brackeen was hit three times, once in the chin, the bullet coming out of his neck; a second shot took effect in the left shoulder and entered the lung, and a third shot cut off his right finger on the lend hand. He died at Powers Hospital. APR 12 1941

BROTHER REVEALS HIDING PLACE

Redus made his escape from the scene and is said to have gone to the home of Dr. W. H. Peyton, colored physician, who is alleged to have given him first-aid for a slight flesh wound and sought transportation for the fugitive. Dr. Peyton is confined to the county jail on charges of aiding and abetting a fugitive from justice. Another Negro, Thomas Kirby, was arrested on the same charges but later released. APR 12 1941 Sheriff Martin F. Whitt, with two deputies, went to Decatur last Tuesday, where they are alleged to have interviewed Thomas Redus, brother of the hunted man, and obtained from him the whereabouts of his brother, who was hiding in South Nashville.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Grand Jury Indicts Dog Wagon Driver For Murder Assault

MAY 13 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS) The Jefferson County Grand Jury last week indicted H. E. Stokes, white, driver of a city dog wagon on charges of assault with intent to murder in connection with the shooting of Nelson Hogan. Hogan was shot in the back, testimony revealed, after Hogan had reportedly refused to permit the dog wagon attendants to get his dog. MAY 13 1941

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Case Against Capital Policeman Dismissed

MAY 28 1941

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — (AP) — A charge of assault to murder against Policeman E. W. Hamilton was dismissed in Montgomery Circuit Court Thursday on motion of Solicitor W. T. Seibels, who said there was "insufficient evidence."

Hamilton had been accused of shooting Dorothy Greenwood, a 13-year-old Negro girl, when he and a fellow officer searched her North Montgomery home. MAY 12 3 194

The defense contended the girl was shot in the head when the officer's gun was accidentally discharged as he lowered the hammer, and insisted he was jutified in entering the home with a cocked pistol because he had been told there was a Negro there with a gun.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Indict Navy Fliers in Death Of Negro Woman

MAY 3 - 1941

BAY MINETTE, Ala., May 2 (UP). —The Baldwin County Grand Jury today indicted two Navy fliers on first degree manslaughter charges in connection with the death of an Alabama woman, decapitated by their Navy plane when it flew low over workers in a field.

The fliers, Ensigns Paul Brown and Joseph Thompson, were charged with "unlawfully and intentionally but without malice" killing Mrs. Estelle Phillips, of Near Robertsdale, Ala., "by driving or piloting an airplane into, against or upon her."

Mrs. Phillips was killed while working in a turnip field March 25, when the tip of the low-flying plane's wing struck and decapitated her. Others in the field escaped injury by throwing themselves on the ground. MAY 3 - 1941

The fliers, stationed at the Pensacola, Fla., Naval air base, were placed under arrest pending disposition of their case by Naval authorities. No decision has been announced by Washington.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Demand Probe After Ala. Police Murder Citizen

MAY 10 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—John Jackson, a 32-year-old sheet-mill worker of Fairfield, Ala., who expected daily to be called for induction into the United States Army for service to his country, was brutally murdered Saturday night, April 26, by officers of the Fairfield police department after being unfairly beaten in view of more than half a hundred witnesses.

MAY 10 1941

A barrage of resolutions and protesting letters were sent this week from local civic organizations to state and city authorities demanding dismissal of the officers and a thorough clean-up of the Fairfield police department.

The account of Jackson's mistreatment at the hands of the police was similar to that of the slaying of O'Dee Henderson less than a year ago which resulted in the dismissal of three Fairfield officers.

Jackson, a member of the Mt. Pilgrim Baptist church in Fairfield, was beaten by the police while standing in line at a movie theatre accompanied by a young woman. Later, in a police car, where he was forced by the officers, on the way from the theatre to the city jail, he was shot four times.

According to witnesses, Jackson was attacked by the officers after answering a simple question asked by one of them.

Fifty persons who saw the incident testified that on the night of the murder, a long line of persons was standing outside a theatre where the incident occurred, awaiting admission to the theatre.

A neighboring grocer, objecting to the line so near the door of his store, complained to the police department. Officers were sent. When they arrived, according to the witnesses, Jackson was heard to laugh at some remark made by one of them. When asked by Officer Hubert Alexander why he was laughing, Jackson replied, "I was laughing at what you said."

Officer Alexander, 26, and youngest member of the Fairfield force, is said to have then slapped the young man so hard that his nose bled. Two other officers were said to have then taken out their pistols and hit Jackson over the head with them.

MAY 10 1941

Following that, Jackson was ordered into the police car. When the officers showed up at the Fairfield T.C.I. hospital with Jackson he was pronounced dead. Hospital authorities said, "Don't bring any more dead men here to us." They referred to the case of O'Dee Henderson. The shooting occurred before the officers arrived at the city jail.

Police Chief E. L. Allman, when contacted later, said he knew very little about the incident except that the officers had reported that Jackson had cut Officer Alexander on the hand with a knife while being placed under arrest.

MAY 10 1941

Officer Alexander was seen to be wearing a bandage on one finger, but investigation revealed that Jackson had no knife, that he had not possessed even a pen-knife for some months, and that, though in need of a knife to sharpen a pencil on the same afternoon of the tragedy, had been unable to secure one and had not the money with which to buy one.

Mayor G. N. Gilley, who is being petitioned by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was not available for interview on Monday after the slaying.

However, it was Mayor Gilley who recommended the dismissal of officers in the Henderson lynching. And on more than one occasion, Mayor Gilley has cautioned police officers about brutality.

MAY 10 1941

Organizations protesting the happening are the N.A.A.C.P., the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and the League of Young Southerners.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
May 9, 1941

CHEAP LIVES

P. A. Hurst, writing in The Roanoke Leader made a valuable contribution to Alabama civilization when he vividly brought before the public the shameful fact that Negroes are permitted to kill and maim each other and escape with little punishment by the law.

Mr. Hurst quoted a respected Negro minister of Roanoke as saying that he is heart-broken over the state of affairs among his people.

"My life is not worth the snap of your finger if I should say something from the pulpit that would offend one of these wild, rough, drinking fellows," the writer quoted the minister as saying, "He could take my life and get out with a very light fine."

Mr. Hurst then cited instances, given to him by the Negro of acts of violence, committed by Negroes against Negroes, which either went unpunished or for which the punishment was ridiculously light.

"There has been lots said about lynching in the United States," the minister was quoted as saying. "The sensible Negroes of the South are not scared about being lynched by white people, but they do need protection against their own race and this protection can only be given by the enforcement of the laws that are in the hands of the white man."

There is a scathing indictment of Southern civilization which shocks us more because it is true.

From our youth up we have been familiar with the casual attitude displayed by responsible white persons toward acts of violence among Negroes.

There's a shrug of the shoulders. It was a "nigger cuttin'," or a "nigger killin'." No use to get excited about it. In Talladega county, which has been no better and no worse than the average, we have seen Negroes guilty of the most deliberate sort of cold-blooded murder get away with a short prison term.

You can't blame the law enforcement officials for the situation. They represent the society which they serve. They reflect our attitude—an attitude which is wrong from any angle

Few of us have not at some time used influence to protect a Negro from the law—because he was a good workman and we needed his services for our own selfish benefit.

The majority of Negroes, of course, "get off light," not because of a white person's influence, but because white society seems to care very little about whether Negro citizens observe the law.

A Negro who murders a Negro in cold blood should go to the chair just as surely and swiftly as if he had murdered a white man. A Negro who assaults a Negro should pay the penalty dictated by law and justice, not by indifference.

No county in Alabama, to our knowledge, is free of stain in the matter. It is high time for a complete change in our attitude and a resolve that Negroes guilty of violence against Negroes should be dealt with as they deserve.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Found Guilty In Policeman's Death

ATHENS, Ala.—(AP)—Robert Redus, 26-year-old Negro, was under a death sentence Thursday after a Limestone County jury convicted him of the fatal shooting of Bedford F. Brackeen, Athens police officer, on March 23.

Judge Seybourn Lynne sentenced Redus to die Aug. 1 in the Kilby Prison electric chair.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Is Found Guilty In Policeman's Death

ATHENS, Ala.—The jury in the case of Robert Redus, 26-year-old Negro charged with first degree murder in connection with the shooting of Bedford F. Brackeen, Athens policeman, on March 23, reported [illegible] it had found the defendant guilty and set his punishment at death in the electric chair.

Circuit Judge Seybourn Lynne, of Decatur, sentenced Redus to die Aug. 1.

The defendant gave notice of appeal. The death sentence was suspended pending disposition of the appeal.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

GRANTS REPRIEVE TO CONDEMNED MAN WHO LED A MODEL LIFE

JUN 21 1941

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 19—Scheduled to die in the electric chair at Kilby Prison shortly after midnight Thursday, Harrison Williams, under sentence of death for the murder 25 years ago of Tolbert Watson, Green county white man, was reprieved late Wednesday by Gov. Frank M. Dixon.

Williams completely disappeared following the killing and the case had been all but forgotten when he was returned several months ago in Marks, Miss., returned to Alabama, tried, convicted and sentenced to electrocution.

In the small Mississippi town where he sought and found refuge, Williams married and settled down. He and his wife have five children, the eldest nearly grown. Many white and Negro citizens of Marks have petitioned Governor Dixon to commute the death sentence, declaring Williams has always been a industrious and law-abiding and has the respect and esteem of the entire community.

JUN 21 1941

Those seeking clemency in the case maintain, it is understood, that in the slaying of the white men Williams had extraordinary provocation, and that he acted in defense of his own life.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Alabaman Slays Cop For Insulting Neice

APR 12 1941

ATHENS, Ala., April 10.—When the smoke of battle cleared following a shooting scrape in the downtown section of Athens opposite the bus station, a police officer lay near death from three bullet wounds and his assailant had temporarily escaped from the scene.

Robert Redus, 26, is confined to the Birmingham jail for safe keeping following his capture in Nashville, Tenn., last Tuesday, and is awaiting trial after being indicted for first-degree murder by the Grand Jury setting here Wednesday.

Redus fatally wounded Bedford F. Brackeen, night policeman, in a gun battle early Sunday morning. He waived extradition following his capture in Tennessee and was brought back to face Alabama justice. The trial date has not been set.

APR 12 1941

COP DENIES SLAPPING TEACHER

According to Policeman Bill Johnston, who was with Brackeen at the time, they were parked in a prowl car opposite the bus terminal when Redus drove up, got out of his car and walked over to their car and asked to speak to Johnston. An argument between the two started when Redus accused the officer of slapping his niece, Miss Lillie May Redus, public school teacher, when he went to her house last Saturday to demand the return of a bicycle to a Nashville store.

Johnston denied slapping the young woman and said Redus pulled a gun and started shooting. Brackeen jumped from the police car and joined in the gun-play while Redus took refuge behind his own car. During the exchange of gun-fire, Brackeen was hit three times, once in the chin, the bullet coming out of his neck; a second shot took effect in the left shoulder and entered the lung, and a third shot cut off his right finger on the lend hand. He died at Powers Hospital.

BROTHER REVEALS HIDING PLACE

Redus made his escape from the scene and is said to have gone to the home of Dr. W. H. Peyton, colored physician, who is alleged to have given him first-aid for a slight flesh wound and sought transportation for the fugitive. Dr. Peyton is confined to the county jail on charges of aiding and abetting a fugitive from justice. Another Negro, Thomas Kirby, was arrested on the same charges but later released.

APR 12 1941

Sheriff Martin F. Whitt, with two deputies, went to Decatur last Tuesday, where they are alleged to have interviewed Thomas Redus, brother of the hunted man, and obtained from him the whereabouts of his brother, who was hiding in South Nashville.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Wound In Leg Fatal For Negro Woman

MAY 9 1941

Iola Parks, negro, was killed early Thursday morning when Lela Watkins, also a negro, shot her in the leg with a shotgun, 18 miles south of here on the Troy Highway, sheriff's deputies said.

Deputy Sheriffs Payne and Frizzle, investigating officers, said that the negro woman was shot when she attacked the Watkins negro, and that she bled to death before aid could be administered. They quoted Lela Watkins as saying she only wanted to wound the other negro when she shot her in the leg. She is being held by county officials on charge of murder.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

MAY 26 1941

CONVICTION REVERSED IN OLD SLAYING—The United States Supreme Court has reversed the decision of the Alabama trial court and has ruled that Joe Vernon, Negro, need not die for the slaying of young Ben Montgomery, Woodlawn High School youth who was shot to death in a filling station holdup in 1938. The case was taken to the U. S. Supreme Court on the ground there were no Negroes on the Grand Jury which indicted Vernon in the slaying nor on the petit jury which tried the case in Circuit Court. Pictured above is the scene of the slaying, in which officers say young Montgomery, who was working nights in order to get a college education, was shot while on his knees begging the killer not to shoot.

The insert shows the only available picture of young Montgomery. Local officials said Monday Vernon would be retried.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Vernon Conviction Is Reversed Again

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Supreme Court reversed Monday the conviction of Joe Vernon, Birmingham Negro sentenced to die for murder.

MAY 26 1941

This action was taken in an order which merely said that the judgment of conviction was reversed in the light of other similar decisions by the Supreme Court.

The Negro had previously been saved twice from execution by last-minute action of the high tribunal.

Counsel for the Negro contended among other things that he had been "beaten to the point where he was crazy" in order to obtain purported confessions.

It also was asserted that Negroes had been "intentionally and systematically" excluded from the jury.

He was convicted in the Jefferson County Circuit Court of shooting Bennie Montgomery in 1937 and the verdict was upheld by the state Supreme Court. He was confined in Kilby Prison in Montgomery County.

Stays of execution previously granted by the Supreme Court were on Jan. 30 and March 6. They were allowed to permit a Supreme Court review.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

L. C. Bell Will Probably Be Reprieved, Governor Says

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 26—(AP)—L. C. Bell, Negro sentenced to die June 6 on a murder conviction, probably will be reprieved, Gov. Frank M. Dixon said Monday.

MAY 27 1941

Bell was convicted with Joe Vernon in the 1937 robbery-slaying of a Birmingham filling station worker, and Vernon's case was reversed Monday by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Bell's conviction was not appealed, but he has received over a dozen stays in the last two years while the companion case was fought through the courts.

Gov. Dixon said he would confer, possibly Tuesday, with Atty. Gen. Thomas S. Lawson and Jefferson County Solicitor Robert E. McAdory.

The Negroes were convicted in January, 1939, of killing Bennie Montgomery during a holdup Sept. 20, 1937. Vernon's appeal was based principally on a claim that he was "beaten" into making a confession, and that Negroes were excluded from the jury.

The U. S. Court had granted stays of execution Jan. 30 and March 6—the first less than two hours before his scheduled electrocution. Thereupon the governor also reprieved Bell.

Birmingham, Ala. News
May 30, 1941

Negro Is Granted Stay Of Execution

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Gov. Dixon granted L. C. Bell, condemned Birmingham Negro, a 60-day reprieve Friday and announced stay would be continued until the companion case of Joe Vernon, who recently won a U. S. Supreme Court reversal, finally was decided.

Both Bell and Vernon were sentenced to death for the 1937 slaying of Bennie Montgomery, Birmingham filling station attendant.

Vernon's case was remanded to Jefferson circuit for retrial by the Supreme Court the second time it was taken to it, the defendant claiming a confession was forced and that Negroes were barred from the Grand Jury indicting him.

Bell has had numerous other reprieves while the Vernon case was being fought through the courts. Dixon set the new execution date 60 days from June 6, to which the previous stay extended.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Preacher Shot To Death; Another Held

A Negro preacher from Leeds was being held in the County Jail Monday following the slaying of another Negro preacher Sunday night at Leeds.

JUN 2 1941

Sheriff's Deputy J. B. (Red) Boggan, who investigated along with a Leeds officer, reported to Chief Deputy Wilton Hogan Monday that both the victim, Oscar Slaughter, 57, and the slayer, Sam Spears, were preachers.

Boggan reported witnesses told him that Slaughter came to Spears' house Sunday night after Spears had retired, and entered the house cursing. Slaughter was shot a few moments later. Boggan said he was told, after he is said to have held a chair overhead as he approached Spears' bed.

Spears was booked in County Jail to await final action by County Investigator Gip Evans.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
May 14, 1941

There Are More Angles To Problem of Negro Shootings

(By P. A. Hurst)

The article in last week's **Leader** about what a prominent Negro minister had to say about Negroes being killed by Negroes and Negroes committing other offenses against Negroes and getting out with light fines and in many instances being set free has brought a number of expressions of surprise from some of our best citizens. It also brought Sheriff Grover Payne to inquire more into the circumstances which brought this Negro minister to see me.

Mr. Payne said that some of Randolph's officials felt that they were being unjustly condemned, as they knew nothing of the incidents referred to. The article did not say in what county or counties the killing while entering the church and the shooting inside the church occurred.

The double murder near Dickert, which was mentioned, was in this county but no comment was made by the Negro minister, except that he hoped that the murderer would get justice in our court, which, he said, "is in the hands of you white people." In fact, last week, in the same issue of **The Roanoke Leader**, there appeared on the front page a brief news items telling of the stern action of a Randolph court in this Dickert case.

But Mr. Payne has been in close contact with our courts for a number of years, and he asked that we call to the attention of our colored friend the fact that in nearly every instance when one Negro slays another or is guilty of an offense against another Negro, almost all the witnesses are Negroes. The records of the courts will show that they testify for the living, the defendant, almost 100 per cent. How can the courts help themselves?

Our officials need the sympathy and help of all good citizens of both races to rid our land of crime. Don't be afraid to speak out.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ALABAMA COP TO BE CHARGED WITH MURDER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 22 — Charges of murder will be preferred against Hubert Alexander, and other members of the police force of Fairfield, Ala., who is accused of having shot and killed John Jackson in Fairfield recently, it was announced this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Although public opinion is aroused in favor of prosecution of the officers, NAACP attorneys who are handling the case expect a stiff battle.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Negro Found Guilty In Watchman's Death

Circuit Court jury yesterday convicted Jesse Henry Ridehart, negro, on a charge of first degree murder of a lumber yard watchman. He was given life imprisonment.

MAY 29 1941

He was charged of killing Walter McElroy at the Marshall Lumber Yard Feb. 14. McElroy was found slugged to death.

Robert King, charged with murder, pleaded guilty to first degree manslaughter and was given a five-year sentence.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Seeks Dismissal Of 3 Birmingham Police

BIRMINGHAM, (ANP)—The dismissal of three Fairfield police charged with fatally shooting John Jackson on April 26, has been asked by Marshall Jackson, a relative of the dead man.

JUN 3 1941

Jackson was fatally wounded in the Fairfield police squad car after he allegedly drew a knife on the officers and cut one of them on the arm. The complaint which seeks the officers' dismissal charged Hugh Alexander, [illegible] and W. R. Grunby with responsibility for Jackson's death. Previous investigations by a Bessemer coroner and a committee from Fairfield city council exonerated the trio of officers of blame.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

White Cop Freed In Shooting Race Girl

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 29—On the recommendation of Circuit Solicitor W. T. Seibels and his statement that evidence for the prosecution was insufficient to convict, Circuit Judge Eugene Carter dismissed here Thursday a charge of assault with intent to murder by City Police Officer E. W. Hamilton of Dorothy Greenwood, 12-year-old race girl, when he and another officer searched the child's home in North Montgomery on the afternoon of January 18, this year.

MAY 31 1941

A bullet fired from Policeman Hamilton's pistol at the time penetrated the girl's skull, entering her brain. After several weeks in a hospital, she was discharged and has since been apparently normal, though the bullet was not removed, surgeons fearing an operation to remove it would prove fatal.

The solicitor's recommendation and action of the trial judge in dismissing the case came after the trial had been in progress for nearly two hours.

Officer Hamilton claimed on the witness stand that his pistol which he held cocked in his hand while he searched James Greenwood, brother of the girl for a weapon, was discharged accidentally as he attempted to let the hammer down.

Both he and the policeman who accompanied him testified they went to the Greenwood home to make a search of the premises, after they were told a man with a gun was creating a disturbance there, though they admitted no man or gun was found.

33-1941

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Arrest Made In Watchman's Slaying Here

FEB 17 1941

Negro Admits Attack At Lumber Yard Earlier In Week

When confronted with a four-foot metal lumber jack weighing 20 pounds at police headquarters Sunday night Jesse Ridehart, 39-year-old negro of Jacksonville, Fla., looked at it a moment and said:

"Yes, sir, that's what I hit him with."

FEB 17 1941

He referred to Walton McElroy, negro night watchman of the Marshal Lumber Company whose body, with skull crushed, was found at 11:15 p.m. Monday by C. H. Hendrix, white, chief watchman, who went looking for the negro when he failed to report at a watch-station on schedule.

Ridehart, who had worked at the lumber yard for a day and a half, told police that robbery was the motive for the crime.

The negro was arrested late Sunday at the Louisville and Nashville overpass, on Catoma Creek by Detective Sergts. J. M. Holland, E. Y. Lacy, J. L. Miller, Mike Chisholm Chief of Detectives Paul Rapport and Capt. T. H. Goins.

The reading of an account of the slaying in The Advertiser by H. L. Evans, railroad section foreman, of Georgiana, Ala., in which it was related that a .32 calibre pistol had been stolen from the victim, was the first of a series of incidents that led to Ridehart's apprehension.

Evans, who had been living temporarily in a railroad car for section workers, informed Detectives Holland and Lacy that he had purchased a .32 calibre pistol from a "very black" negro the day after the slaying. He added, however, that he had not read of the slaying at that time.

His description of the negro started Detectives Lacy and Holland on a tour that took them to scores of places. From two or three of these additional "leads," that finally led to his arrest, were obtained.

Police quoted Ridehart as stating:

"I went to the lumber yard about 8 o'clock and sat on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad track. I found the big iron bar near the end of a shed and I took it and hit him (McElroy) in the head. I took his pistol and tried to sell it for $2 but nobody would pay that much so I sold it to a man for $1.50."

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

BODIES OF TWO SLAIN BROTHERS FOUND IN WOODS

FEB 26 1941

Battered Pair Missing Four Days Before Being Discovered

FEB 26 1941

RUSSELLVILLE, Ala., Feb. 25—The battered bodies of two brothers, missing since Friday, were found in a lonely clump of woods 28 miles east of here Tuesday.

J. W. Stokes, a farmer, reported to Sheriff Curt Nix that he found the bodies of Wallace McKinney, 38, and Millard McKinney, 28, about 200 yards off the Russellville-Haleyville highway.

Coroner C. W. Underwood returned a finding of murder.

Underwood said Wallace McKinney was found lying on his back, his face and head battered almost beyond recognition, with some 15 or 20 knife wounds in the body and a bullet wound in the center of his forehead.

Except for the crushed skull, the coroner said, the body of Millard McKinney bore no other marks of violence.

An empty 22 caliber catridge was found at the scene, Coroner Underwood reported. A knife, he said, was found carefully poised on the neck of Wallace McKinney. Powder burns surrounded the wound in Wallace's forehead, indicating that the victim had been shot at close range, Underwood said.

The ground around the scene of the crime was marked by signs of a violent scuffle and Wallace McKinney's hands were badly cut, indicating that before he met death he had put up a terrific fight, Underwood reported.

In attempting to trace the movements of the men, Underwood said he and Sheriff Nix had found the t ks of three men leading from a nearby creek to the scene of the crime and the tracks of one leading away.

The tracks leading away were followed back to the creek, where there was some evidence that someone had stopped and washed, Underwood related.

The condition of the bodies, said Underwood, indicated that the crime had been committed last Friday. In addition to the careful planting of the knife, Underwood said that someone apparently had made an effort to rearrange the clothes of the two men.

ALABAMA
Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

CORONER REPORTS

MAR 4 1941

Shooting Of Negro By Detective Is Termed Justifiable

Shooting of a suspected Negro thief by Detective D. L. Houston in the downtown district Saturday was termed justifiable homicide, after an inquest Monday afternoon by Coroner Gip M. Evans.

An overcoat which was in the possession of the dead Negro, Oscar Parnell, 23, was identified by F. E. Bailey, 6035 First Avenue, South, as one which had been stolen from his car while it was parked on First Avenue between Seventeenth and Eighteenth Streets, Evans said. Two hats in the possession of the Negro have not been identified, Evans said.

MAR 4 1941

The inquest, according to Evans, showed that Detective Houston and Detective Abe Goldstein saw the Negro come from the vicinity of where the Bailey car was parked. When the Negro ran, Evans said he learned, the two officers shouted to bystanders to stop the Negro, and fired two shots into the air in an effort to halt him.

Evans said that an arrest order had been put out at police headquarters for the Negro because he was said to have stolen an overcoat some time ago from a downtown garage.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

10-Year Prison Term Meted In Alleged Slaying For Insurance

FEB 28 1941

Convicted on a charge of slaying another Negro in what the state maintained was a conspiracy to collect his insurance, Frank Perdue, 46, former manager of the Birmingham Black Barons' baseball team, was sentenced to a 10-year prison term after a jury trial in Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's court.

James Turner, alias Buddy Wade, Negro, who was the state's main witness against Perdue and Lillie McDowell, another defendant, leaped to his death from the sixth floor of the courthouse Wednesday after finishing testimony. The McDowell woman had been acquitted earlier that day.

FEB 28 1941

Turner testified he had been promised $200 by Perdue and the McDowell woman to slay her husband, George McDowell, miner and operator of a store at Powderly. McDowell was slain the night of Nov. 3 from ambush by a shotgun blast.

Assistant Solicitor Willard McCall asserted that Perdue had made a statement after his arrest that he had made arrangements so Turner could get the shotgun used in the slaying. During the trial, however, Perdue said he didn't remember making that part of the statement. Perdue also testified the McDowell woman had tried to get him to purchase some poison for her, prior to the slaying, but that he had refused.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Slaying By Officer Still Investigated

MAR 1 2 1941

Coroner Gip M. Evans said early Tuesday afternoon he had further investigation to make into the death of Loveless Smith, Negro, who was shot fatally Monday afternoon by Constable Frank Kirkland.

Evans said he would return a verdict Wednesday or Thursday.

Deputy Sheriff J. L. Boggan Tuesday visited the Negro's home at 1421 Tombigbee Street and the shooting scene in a wooded area near New Castle. Officers quoted Kirkland as saying he and H. C. Campbell, of Gardendale, found the Negro at a still and Kirkland shot him when he advanced with a drawn knife.

MAR 13 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Alabama Slayers Granted Reprieve

MAR 15 1941

Condemned Men Saved a Second Time by Action of Supreme Court Justice As Minutes Separated Them From Chair.

33

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Mar. 13—For the second time in five weeks L. C. Bell and Joe Vernon, condemned to death for the holdup murder of Bennie Montgomery, white filling station operator of Birmingham, were saved from the electric chair at Kilby prison, on the eve of their scheduled execution last Thursday, and just as all hope seemed lost.

Their latest new lease on life came the same way as the first which occurred on the night of January 30, after their heads had been shaved and minutes only separated them from eternity—an order from the United States Supreme Court, in Washington, D. C.

The order was the further staying of the carrying out of the death sentence in the case of Vernon on whose behalf the action was taken, until the high court can hear a petition for certiorari seeking to reverse the state courts, and render a decision.

DEFENSE RAISE JURY ISSUE

MAR 15 1941

Though no legal proceedings had been filed in Bell's case, Governor Frank M. Dixon, upon being officially advised of the order from Washington, granted an indefinite reprieve to him as well as to Vernon, in view of the fact that they are co-defendants tried and convicted of the same crime.

The fight now being conducted before the U. S. Supreme Court by attorneys for Vernon, is based on the contention that Negroes were excluded from the Jefferson county grand jury that indicted him, and the trial jury rendering the verdict of guilty, and that such alleged exclusion was because of race and color.

Habeas corpus was denied by the Montgomery Circuit Court, sought on the same ground, and the Alabama Supreme Court subsequently declined to interfere with that ruling.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Quartet Accused In Negro's Death

MAR 11 1941

Police Commissioner William P. Screws Monday reinstated patrolmen J. H. Baxley and W. M. Simpler, who were suspended Saturday for failure to make a proper report on the fatal stabbing Friday night in a dance floor brawl of Johnnie Lee Williams, 20, a negro.

Police, meanwhile, have charged four negroes, implicated in the killing, with murder. The negroes were identified as Will Saunders, Professor Taylor, Sammy Wright and Mitchell Davis. One of the negroes, Will Saunders, was said to have confessed but conflicting information and opinion led the police to charge all four with the crime. The negroes were said to have killed Williams at a dance at the Booker T. Washington High School after going there with the intention of "breaking up" the dance.

MAR 11 1941

Gen. Screws said suspension of the two policemen was part of his policy to have all officers accused of impropriety in the line of duty suspended until he could learn the facts of the case. Prompt reinstatement in this case was their vindication.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ALABAMA COURT DENIES APPEAL

Two Men Charged With Killing White Filling Station Owner Will Appeal to U. S. Supreme Court. — Saved From Death by Justice Frankfurter.

MAR 1 1941

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 27—Appeals of Joe Vernon and L. C. Bell, of Birmingham, under sentence of death for the slaying of Bennie Montgomery, white filling station proprietor, were denied by the Supreme Court of Alabama in a decision rendered Thursday. Counsel for the two men announced shortly afterward that the cases would be appealed immediately to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Appeals denied by the state high court Thursday, were from action by the Montgomery Circuit Court, declining to grant writs of habeas corpus seeking the release of Vernon and Bell on the ground that Negroes were excluded from the grand jury that indicted them and the trial juries that convicted them.

MAR 1 1941

On the night of January 30, only a few minutes before both of the condemned were to have gone to the electric chair at Kilby Penitentiary, their lives were dramatically saved, temporarily at least, by a telephoned decree issued by Supreme Court Justice Frankfurter in Washington, granting a stay of execution until March 7.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Dave Canty Loses Bid For New Trial

MAR 26 1941

Circuit Judge Eugene W. Carter yesterday denied a motion for a new trial on a murder charge of Dave Canty, Montgomery negro, sentenced last Fall to a life term.

Defense Atty. Ralph Ghent immediately afterwards gave notice of appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court. The case had once before gone to the State tribunal and to the United States Supreme Court which reversed the decision and remanded it back to the Circuit Court. Original sentence had been death.

MAR 26 1941

The negro was charged with the murder of Miss Eunice Ward, who with her sister, Miss Lillian Ward, were attacked while picking flowers on a lonely field near the Hunter Vaughan Road.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Review Given Negro In Montgomery Killing

APR 7 - 1941

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Joe Vernon, Birmingham, Ala., Negro sentenced to die for murder, was granted a Supreme Court review Monday.

Taking highly unusual action, the tribunal vacated an order entered Nov. 12, 1940, which had denied the Negro a review.

A recent petition filed by Vernon seeking a review was denied, but Supreme Court attaches said reversal of the earlier action assured that Vernon's contentions would be passed on.

The court ordered a stay of execution pending a final decision.

The Negro, twice saved from execution by last-minute action by the Supreme Court, sought a review of a decision by the Alabama Supreme Court denying him a writ of habeas corpus.

He contended that Negroes had been "intentionally and systematically" excluded from the jury and that he had been subjected to "third degree" methods by Birmingham officers.

APR 7 - 1941

He was convicted in the Jefferson County Circuit Court of shooting Bennie Montgomery in 1937.

The United States Supreme Court granted a stay of execution on March 6 pending action on the petion for review. The stay was granted a few hours before the time set for execution.

Once before—on Jan. 30—the Negro was similarly saved by a stay granted by Justice Frankfurter.

Albany-Decatur, Ala Daily
February 17, 1941

COURT AGAIN WEIGHS CASE

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 17—(AP) Further efforts to save the life of Joe Vernon, snatched almost literally from the electric chair through action of the United States Supreme Court the night of Jan. 30, were pressed today in the Alabama Supreme Court.

And with Vernon's hopes were tied in those of L. C. Bell, convicted with him in the robbery-slaying of Bennie Montgomery, Birmingham filling station attendant, in 1937.

The State Supreme Court scheduled for hearing today an appeal from a Montgomery circuit court decision denying a writ of habeas corpus for Vernon, sought on grounds negroes were excluded from the grand jury that indicted him.

The circuit court's denial of a habeas corpus writ and stay of execution came Jan. 30, and on the same day this action was affirmed by the State Supreme Court. That night, less than two hours before the two negroes were to have been electrocuted, the U. S. tribunal granted a stay until Feb. 7.

When that day arrived, Gov. Frank M. Dixon reprieved the men until March 7, to permit further court action. While Bell's case has not been appealed to the Washington tribunal, his scheduled execution has been postponed by the governor from time to time during various phases of court action which have kept Vernon alive.

Vernon has been represented by Walter Smith, Birmingham lawyer, and L. A. Ransom, Washington, counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

2 Navy Fliers Acquitted On Some Counts

Court Martial Discloses Partial Findings At Pensacola

MAY 31 1941

PENSOCOLA, FLA., May 30.—(AP)—Two young Navy fliers whose airplane decapitated an Alabama farm woman March 25 have been acquitted on some counts of a general charge of "unnecessarily endangering the lives of others."

The seven-member court martial which tried them, however, did not announce what disposition it had made of charges of involuntary manslaughter, "conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline" and diving their plane on a field owned by Sam Ard near Robertsdale, Ala.

During the general court martial Captain Edward A. Montgomery, the marine officer who acted as judge advocate, said any acquittals would be announced here but any convictions would be made public by the Navy Department in Washington.

Ensign Joseph C. Thompson, of Headsburg, Calif., and Paul C. Brown, of Chicago, reported on March 25 that their training plane struck a woman who was working in a turnip field near Robertsdale.

Mrs. Robert Phillips, 35-year-old mother of four children, was decapitated by a plane which swooped low over Sam Ard's turnip field that day. Several other workers testified they had to run or fall flat to keep from being hit.

Commander Charles A. Nicholson, president of the court martial, announced that both Thompson and Brown had been acquitted of a charge of diving their plane at a road scraper operated by John L. Huggins on a dirt road in Baldwin County, Ala.

The officer also said Brown had been acquitted of charges of diving the plane on three farm fields, identified as Yentsch's, Brock's and Green's.

MAY 31 1941

He made no mention of the manslaughter and misconduct charges or the charge of diving the plane on the Ard field.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

REPRIEVE GRANTED IN DEATH SENTENCE

JUN 11 1941

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 10—(AP)—Harrison Williams, Greene County Negro who had been scheduled to die in the electric chair Friday for a 15-year-old murder, was reprieved until July 18 Tuesday by Gov. Frank M. Dixon.

Records showed that Williams was accused of killing Tolbert Walton, a white man, in 1915. He was arrested last year in Marks, Miss., brought back to Greene County and convicted.

Files of the case contained statements from numerous Marks citizens recommending clemency for Williams.

Also reprived until July 18 was Robert Jones, under death sentence imposed in Greene County on a charge of killing his wife. The governor's office said the stays were granted at the request of defense lawyers, who wanted additional time to prepare for clemency hearings.

JUN 11 1941

Julius Jackson, Negro convicted in Talladega County of the slaying of Leman Shields, a white man, last Dec. 14, will be given a clemency hearing Thursday. He is scheduled for electrocution early Friday.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

SUPREME COURT SETS ASIDE MURDER VERDICT AGAINST BIRMINGHAM MAN

JUN 7 1941

WASHINGTON—(ANP) Charging that his conviction by the Alabama courts of slaying a white filling station attendant was founded on a confession which officers obtained under duress, Joe Vernon, Birmingham, had his conviction set aside by the supreme court Monday. He also contended that Negroes were "systematically" excluded from Jefferson county grand juries.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Admits Killing, Freed

A Negro who convinced Judge H. B. Abernethy of the Jefferson County Misdemeanors and Felonies Court that he killed another Negro in self-defense was at liberty Wednesday after about 10 days in the county jail.

Tried before Judge Abernethy Tuesday afternoon, Henry Smith admitted he killed Cornelius Turner, June 23, with a hammer, but declared he did so after the latter pursued him into his house with a knife and attempted to kill him.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Granted Retrial Confessed To Slaying Here, Asserts Lawson

Vernon Admitted Killing As Execution Neared, Kilby Warden Says

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) —Joe Vernon, thrice saved from the Alabama electric chair by the U. S. Supreme Court, admitted last January that he and L. C. Bell were guilty of the 1938 slaying for which they were convicted, Atty. Gen. Thomas S. Lawson claimed Thursday.

Vernon won a reversal of his death sentence last May 26 in his fifth plea when the U. S. justices ordered the case retried in Jefferson (Birmingham) Circuit Court. Gov. Dixon has stayed execution of Bell until disposition of Vernon's case.

Both Bell and Vernon are Negroes, accused of shooting Bennie Montgomery in a filling station holdup.

Atty. Gen. Lawson said Vernon's admission, made shortly before the stay of execution was received, was not admissible in actions before the Supreme Court at the time, but would be used in the retrial.

Warden Earl Wilson, of Kilby Prison, where the two Negroes are held, concurred in Lawson's statement that Vernon "confessed to two ministers," who were not named.

Vernon's statement, the attorney general said, was made within an hour of the time set for his execution. Official notice that Justice Frankfurter had stayed Vernon's sentence came at five minutes of the midnight execution hour.

The federal high court twice refused to interfere in Vernon's original conviction. The reversal later was based on its rulings in Texas and Florida cases where defendants were granted new trials on the basis confessions had been forced from them.

Alabama denied claims the alleged original confessions were forced from the Negroes or that members of their race were "systematically" barred from jury service.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Officer Who Slew Prisoner Fired In Birmingham

Civil Service Board Acts After No-Bill Voted

BIRMINGHAM,— (ANP) — The The Civil Service board ordered the dismissal Friday of Officer Hubert G. Alexander from the Fairchild police force for "conduct unbecoming to an officer" in connection with the fatal shooting April 26 of a prisoner.

Alexander's defense was that he shot the prisoner, John Jackson, in self-defense after the latter had allegedly slashed at him with a pocket-knife cutting his finger while they were enroute to the Fairchild jail in a patrol car.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Policeman Shot With Own Gun; Negro Is Slain

Detective Sergt. Holland Fires Through Hand; Then Hits Assailant

Jessie Cobb, 24-year-old negro, was shot and killed yesterday shortly after noon, and Police Detective Sergeant John Holland was shot twice through his left hand, in an affray that took place when the negro allegedly ignored a command from Sergt. Holland to drop a knife he was carrying and surrender.

The negro, a paroled convict from Jefferson County, who served five years of a 30-year sentence imposed in 1935 for second degree murder, had been in an argument with four other negro boys at the corner of North Union and Columbus Streets, witnesses said. Sergt. Holland, who was walking on Union returning to his home from a grocery store, was approached by one of the negroes who said that two others had threatened them with knives.

According to statements of witnesses, the detective turned toward the two older negroes approaching him, (Cobb and a companion, William Richardson) and asked them if they were playing or fighting. When he saw they had knives, he told them to drop them, whereupon Cobb closed in on him and grabbed his belt.

Detective Holland drew his gun and attempted to free himself from the negro's grasp. Cobb, it was said, grabbed the gun just before the detective fired, directing the shot into the hand of the policeman. A second shot wounded the detective again in the hand.

When Sergt. Holland freed the gun, he shot the negro three times, wounding him in the neck, chest, and thigh. Cobb released his grip on the policeman then, witnesses said, and fled into a nearby house. A few minutes later when other policemen arrived, they found the negro dead in the house, on the floor between two beds.

Mr. Holland was taken to a local hospital for treatment, where the attending physician said the bones of his hand had been broken in several places by the shot. Powder burns on the front of the detective's shirt indicated that the shooting had taken place at close quarters.

William Richardson, the negro with Cobb at the time of the shooting, said that he had met him several years before when they were both serving terms at Kilby Prison. Richardson served a five-year term for robbery and grand larceny in Mobile County.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Wealthy White Widow Accused Of Employing Man To Kill Husband

DOTHAN, Ala., July 31—(ANP) —Mrs. Curtis Warren, 32, white member of a respected Southwest Georgia family, is being held in jail here on a murder charge, following the confession of Will Parramore, colored, that she hired him to kill her husband last May 19th.

Parramore, 22, is said to have confessed that at Mrs. Warren's behest he shot Warren, beat him and threw his body in a ditch near Gordon, Ala.

Warren's body was found near the spot where Emmett Lovelace, wealthy Alabamian, was killed in 1938. Warren was acquitted of the slaying on the plea that he killed Lovelace in self-defense. He was head of the Warren Oil company in Donaldsonville, Pa.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Condemned Negro Is Electrocuted

Julius Jackson, Talladega County negro, who was convicted of the murder of Leman Shields, a white man, who with a woman companion was surprised on a lonely road near Sylacauga on the night of Dec. 14, 1940, was executed in the electric chair in the death cell at Kilby Prison shortly after midnight last night.

Shields was killed by a shotgun blast, and his woman companion testified that she was criminally attacked by the negro. About a month ago, Gov. Dixon gave the condemned negro a temporary reprieve after Jackson's wife signed a statement retracting testimony she had given in the trial. Later, the negro's wife said that she didn't know what she was signing, and that the original testimony was correct. Gov. Dixon denied any further clemency in the case, saying that a special investigation had cleared up every possible doubt of Jackson's guilt.

The condemned negro was strapped in the chair at a few minutes after midnight. When asked by Warden Wilson if he wished to make any last statement, he said: "Well, yes, sir. I wish you all good luck. You been nice to me, boss—I thank you for it."

The first shock was administered at 12:15, and followed two minutes later by a second. He was pronounced dead at 12:19.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 11, 1941

Birmingham's Negro Population Marks Up Week-End Of Violence

One Killing And Several Attempts Are Recorded; Public Subdue Offenders

The city's Negro population in wholesale numbers violated the commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Kill," Saturday and Sunday, killing at least one and attempting to kill nearly a score of others.

The motives were run-of-the-mill, yet varied. Many tempers flared from jealousy. One man's killing ire was aroused when his wife wasn't home when he thought she should be. Another's was aroused as aftermath to a "skin-game."

Several victims couldn't explain the action of their assailants.

Though "beloved is the peacemaker," one peace-maker in Birmingham Sunday night was killed, police said. When two other Negro women became embroiled in an argument and started shooting, one of the bullets pasesd through the neck of the peacemaker, Crittie Scott, of 300½ South Twenty-First Street.

Another Negro terrorized a Northside section, defied the entire Police Department Saturday night, but was captured after straight-shooting police officers blasted his shotgun from his hands and wounded him with two bullets.

Creator of the near riot was 24-year-old L. J. Prather, who, police say, broke into a Negro's house, took his shotgun and then began his spree of terror.

First, the Negro owner of the gun was threatened; Prather next put the gun on a white woman; he threatened several other Negroes and finally declared defiantly: "Let the police come on . . . I'll kill every policeman in the world!"

Those were the charges police Monday held against Prather, who lies in the Hillman Hospital, bullet wounds through his arm and leg.

He was captured only after four city police officers—Officers C. B. Alvis, E. S. Collier, B. W. Lewis and P. J. Hilsman—surrounded Prather in a field near a bottling plant, between Thirty-First and

Thirty-Second Streets, on Ninth Alley, North.

His shotgun was 'literally shot out of his hands, police said. The city's armored riot car, Car No. 1, was dispatched to the scene but Prather was captured just before its arrival.

Wanted in connection with the killing of the Scott woman, Magnolia Brown, 323 Twenty-Third Place, South, Monday morning gave herself up to county officials at the advice of her lawyer.

She was placed in the County Jail on a murder charge at 9:30 a.m.

Meanwhile Monday, Detectives Darnell and Norrell were investigating the death of another Negro whose unidentified body was found late Sunday on a slag pile near Alice Furnace.

County Investigators Gip Evans said death was the result of natural cause. The body was decomposed.

Nearly 20 other Negroes in Birmingham were nursing knife and pistol wounds after week-end brawls.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 21, 1941

Negro Killings

The Lafayette Sun, in commenting upon an unusual number of Negro killings in Chambers County in recent weeks, pertinently points out that these killings of Negroes by Negroes are a heavy drain upon the legal machinery of the county and a heavy cost to the taxpayers.

It is a point which the white people of the South have been wont to overlook. "Oh, it's just a Negro killing," they are apt to say, forgetting that the killing counts just as much as any other in the crime statistics and that the cost of a subsequent trial is generally about as heavy.

We have suffered here in the South from laxity in regard to crimes of Negroes against Negroes, especially crimes of violence. The more alert and intelligent Negroes have been quicker to recognize the dangers of this attitude than have the white people generally. The Negroes have been the chief sufferers, since the attitude encourages crime.

However, the Negroes are not the only sufferers by that attitude. Its evils have spread over into the white sections of the population. Its costs are borne by all, and since the whites bear a larger proportion of the tax burden, they bear the larger share of the Negro crime cost.

Law-enforcement officers would do well to keep in mind that from both races there comes a deepening call for more vigor in dealing with Negro crimes of violence.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Board Paroles Wife Slayer In For Life Term

Negro Admits Crime But Says He Didn't Mean To Hit So Hard

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles Thursday paroled a convict who admitted that he was guilty of the crime for which he was sentenced, a rare occurrence in prison annals. Even this admission was greatly tempered and modified before the prisoner got through explaining in his application to the board.

The suppliant convict, Amos Bush, Tuscaloosa negro, admitted socking his wife, but claimed that he did not intend to kill her, which made a lot of difference.

Bush was given a life sentence in 1932. In his written application to the board he started off with the statement, so unusual as to be almost startling: "I am guilty of the crime as per my sentence." He went on to explain, though, that although he hit his wife in a quarrel over their automobile, he hit harder than he intended and had no intention of slaying his spouse. He won parole despite a statement in the file from another source which declared that he beat his wife's head into a pulp with an axe. He had pleaded guilty to first degree murder rather than stand trial.

A case of the worm that turned was presented, according to evidence in the file, in that of Nero Pettaway, Dallas County negro given 15 years for second degree murder in 1939. The file showed that the deceased, one Reed had "practically" taken Nero's wife away from him; that when the two met face to face near a certain store, the injured husband tried to flee, but was hemmed in by friends of his successful rival so that he could not get away. Whereupon the long-suffering Nero at last drew cold steel and carved his adversary so effectively that he died. The board held that Nero was entitled to parole after serving two years of a 15-year sentence.

Only five paroles were granted Thursday, while eight applications were denied.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 30, 1941

HOMICIDE AMONG NEGROES

To the Editor The News:

Too long we have written about Negro killings in Birmingham, Jefferson County and other counties and nothing has been done about it.

Negroes kill each other because they know that the penalty is very light. If one Negro kills another Negro he goes and gets his "white folks" to get him out. After they have said a good word for him, he is a free main again.

Negroes in Birmingham carry long and dangerous knives. I am speaking about the criminal type of Negro. There are laws against these knives, but they are not enforced. The prices of these knives are so low that any schoolboy can afford one. The drug stores and pawn shops are allowed to display them in their windows. It is the desire of every boy not properly guided to own one of these knives. The law should be carried out to the letter when it comes to these knives. If you don't know it, many Negro women carry these long knives.

Too long we have made jokes about Negro "crap" and "skin" games. These are some of the chief causes of many of the killings. Negroes kill each other about a dime or 15 cents and sometimes for less than that.

Hundreds of Negroes are left on Fourth Avenue between Seventeenth and Eighteenth Streets almost every day, and especially on Saturday, without any policemen around. Fights are started at the drop of the hat. There is needed a strong (mentally and physically) Negro policeman on Fourth Avenue between Seventeenth and Eighteenth Streets. The other policemen do a good job, but they seldom come around. They don't know the in and outs of the Negro that is a potential criminal or murderer.

"Just another Negro killing"—this remark is charged against Birmingham. This is why Birmingham at one time was called the murder capital of the world. This is as much a problem of the white people of Birmingham as it is the problem of the Negro people.

Parole boards will turn a Negro free if he is said to be a good Negro by some white person who feels sorry for him because of his previous condition. He will do the same thing again if he has it to do, because he knows his "white folks" will get him out.

Something needs to be done right now about this violence. Visit the Hillman Hospital any Saturday night and you will see some of these things that I am trying to tell you. Negroes are cut [illegible] bruised up just about things that do[illegible] wicked [illegible]t to a hill of beans!

This p[illegible] rob us [illegible] of Negroes killing Negroes is everybo[illegible]oblem, both Negro and white. Let's get busy and do something about this problem.

JAMES THOMAS, JR.
501 Fourteenth Avenue, North.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Magic City Slayer Receives Parole

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles Thursday paroled Charlie Studemeyer, Jefferson County negro convicted in 1922 of the murder of James W. McDowell, a soft-drink salesman. The jury imposed the death penalty in this case, but it was commuted to life imprisonment by Gov. Thomas E. Kilby. In recent years Studemeyer had served as a trusty at the State Department of Agriculture, and was recommended for parole by a number of its employes. He said that he shot Mr. McDowell in self-defense after the latter had attacked him with an iron pipe. There were several protests in the file from persons who claimed that it was a case of cold-blooded murder.

Also paroled was Willie Cade, Montgomery negro given 10 years for second degree murder in 1937. A statement in the file said that Cade was gunning for one negro and shot another, Aubrey De Moore, by mistake in the dark, the slain man being entirely unknown to him.

In denying parole for Norman Jones, Mobile negro given two years for burglary of an automobile in September, 1940, it was shown that Jones confessed after evidence had been obtained in an unusual way. He was arrested by Mobile police, the record showed, in possession of some jewelry, not of great value, and a number of films. The films were developed and from them police learned the automobile license number and identity of the man whose car had been looted, whereupon Jones confessed.

A total of 30 paroles were granted Thursday and 84 applications denied.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
October 5, 1941

Driver Under Guard After Crash Kills Four

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 4.—(AP)—Governor Frank Dixon ordered a State Patrol guard thrown about an Andualusia hospital Saturday as a result of what he described as "threats of a possible lynching" of James McQueen, seriously injured Negro, indicted by the Covington Grand Jury on four charges of first degree manslaughter.

Patrolmen Edgar Dasinger said McQueen was driving a car which collided late Thursday with another vehicle in which Mrs. Lilla Hawkins, Mrs. Clermont Nelson, Nathanial Livings and Miss Maggie Ballard were killed.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

7 Negroes Indicted For Homicides

The reason for the recent Montgomery Grand Jury's recommendation that well-nigh prohibitive licenses be placed upon the sale of guns and switch-back knives came to light Saturday when court officials revealed that seven negroes had been indicted on charges of murder.

They are: Ernest Allen, charged with the slaying of T. J. Forbes; Eddie Clarke, Jr., charged with the fatal shooting of Laura Jackson; Frank Mastin, accused of the murder of Willie Shields; Henry Richardson, accused of stabbing Johnnie M. Brinson to death; Claude Sites, held for the stabbing death of Carey Bostwick; Lula Stoudenmire, held for the fatal shooting of Jessie Lee Robinson; Delia Taylor, charged with knifing Rosa Lee Fleming to death; and Dan Wells, accused of fatally shooting Will Mosley.

Other capital cases scheduled for hearing are: Louise Hunter and Robert Shaw, charged with robbing A. G. Horn of a small amount of money; and John Edward Stroud, charged with robbing Mathew Cotter of $35.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Homicides Declined In State Last Year

NOV 16 1941

The State Department of Health, which announced a few days ago that more suicides were reported in Alabama last year than in any year covered by its mortality records, revealed Saturday that, by way of contrast, last year's reported homicides in this State were the fewest reported in a single year since 1925.

Only 491 homicides were reported last year, as compared with a 1939 total of 526. The 1925 total was 449. The highest annual total shown on the vital statistics records, which extend through 1913, was that of 724, fewer by 233 than last year's total, for 1934.

NOV 16 1941

Approximately three-fourths of last year's deaths attributed to homicide occurred among negroes, 358 of whom lost their lives in that way, as compared with only 133 white persons.

NOV 16 1941

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Alabama Homicide Rate Shows Dip

NOV 16 1941

MONTGOMERY, Ala., (AP)—Alabama's 1940 homicide rate was the lowest since 1925, it was revealed in statistics released Saturday by the State Health Department.

Only 491 homicides were reported last year, as compared with a 1939 total of 526, and 449 in 1925. The highest annual total shown on the vital statistics records, which extend through 1913, was that of 724 for 1934.

Approximately three-fourths of last year's deaths attributed to homicide, or 352 occurred among Negroes.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

MAN'S SKELETON FOUND; PROBE ON

NOV 17 1941

Missing Fisherman Is Recalled By Officers In Limestone

ATHENS, Ala., Nov. 16—North Alabama officers Sunday were seeking the identity of a skeleton, found Saturday by two duck hunters and believed to be that of a man of small stature.

Deputies K. M. Biles and John G. Sandlin, who investigated for Sheriff Martin F. Whitt, said the skeleton apparently was that of a man five feet, eight inches tall, weighing 140 pounds.

A lower plate of false teeth, with one gold tooth, was found in the scattered bones, as was a belt, which had no identifying markings.

There was no trace of clothing, and the bones were scattered and weathered.

The skeleton was discovered on the McCoy farm four miles south of Decatur, on the bank of the Tennessee River, by William L. Walk and his son, Billy Walk, of Decatur. It was on the ground in grass and bushes grown five feet tall.

Investigating deputies went to the scene by boat Saturday night and brought the skull and bones to Athens, where they were ordered held in the county jail by Circuit Solicitor Melvin Hutson, who said disposition would be decided upon later.

NOV 17 1941

Coroner Grigsby Griffis said he would hold no inquest unless asked to do so.

The deputies said there was no indication of foul play, but that because of the condition of the skull, only expert laboratory examination could be relied on to determine whether there was a skull fracture.

The investigators said they had only one possible clew to the identity of the skeleton, recalling that between three and four years ago John Reagin, a Decatur fisherman, disappeared on a boat trip up the Limestone County side of the river. His boat and hat later were found near the place where the skeleton was discovered Saturday, but a search for the body at the time of the disappearance failed to uncover any traces.

They said, however, that they had nothing definite to connect the identity of the skeleton to Reagin.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Posse Pushes Hunt for Negro

DEC 22 1941

LINDEN, Ala., [AP] — Search for a Negro who shot and killed a rural storekeeper and his wife and wounded their 15-year-old son Sunday led into a hilly section of Marengo county some 11 miles southwest of here.

Deputy Sheriff O. W. Whitcomb said about 25 men and seven bloodhounds were participating in the hunt that began late Friday night after A. T. Jackson and his wife were killed in their small general store in the Mose Valley section of the county.

The searching party got close enough to see the Negro on two occasions last night, Whitcomb said, and shots were exchanged. At one point he ran into a house, fired at men leading the bloodhounds and escaped through the rear entrance, the deputy reported.

DEC 22 1941

The Negro, who is believed to have fired on the Jacksons after making a purchase, escaped after looting the safe of $300. Rudolph Jackson, son of the storekeeper, was shot in the neck, but his condition was not believed critical.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

POSSE IS PUSHING HUNT FOR KILLER

DEC 22 1941

Searching Party Once Close Enough To Exchange Shots

LINDEN, Ala., Dec. 21—(AP)—Search for a Negro who shot and killed a rural storekeeper and wife and wounded their 15-year-old son Sunday led into a hilly section of Marengo County some 11 miles southwest of here.

Deputy Sheriff O. W. Whitcomb said about 25 men and seven bloodhounds were participating in the hunt that began late Friday night after T. J. Jackson and wife were killed in their small general store in the Mose Valley section of the country.

The searching party got close enough to see the Negro on two occasions Saturday night, Whitcomb said, and shots were exchanged. At one point the Negro ran into a house, fired a men leading th bloodhounds and escaped through the rear entrance, he reported.

A Negro, who fired on the Jacksons after making a purchase, escaped after looting the safe of $300. Rudolph Jackson, son of the storekeeper, was shot in the neck, but his condition was not believed critical.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Montgomerian Held As Second In Blakey Death

DEC 4 1941

Charlie Ray Holland, 19, Confesses Being Along But Denies Part In Kill

Arrest of a second man in the slaying of David T. Blakey and his subsequent confession to "being along" came in rapid order yesterday.

Charlie Ray Holland, 19, of Montgomery, was seized at his home by State Highway Patrol officers and Montgomery Sheriff Addie Mosely.

His confession was signed by him last night at the patrol offices, according to Patrol Capt. N. W. Kimbrough. In it he denied taking part in the violence, but said he was "along."

Blakey, 32, had been reported missing from his home here since Nov. 12, and his mutilated body was discovered afloat in the Alabama River near here Nov. 28.

DEC 4 1941

Ellis Howard Rowe, 26, facing a murder charge in the crime, which also resulted in the theft and subsequent burning of Blakey's automobile, was arrested in Haleyville, Ala., Monday by Highway Patrolman W. B. Little. Rowe confessed his part in the crime Tuesday.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Posse Seeking Negro Accused Of 2 Murders

DEC 21 1941

Shopkeeper And Wife Are Victims Of Armed Bandit

MAGNOLIA, ALA., Dec. 20.—(AP) — A posse of more than 100 men, urged onward by an aroused citizenry, combed this area of Marengo County tonight in search of a negro accused of slaying a rural storekeeper and his wife.

T. J. Jackson, who operated a small mercantile store in the Mose Valley section near here, and his wife were killed last night and their 15-year-old son, Rudolph, wounded in what Deputy Sheriff O. W. Whitcomb said was the climax to a $300 robbery.

As described by the boy, the officer said, a negro whom his father evidently knew entered the establishment about 10 p.m., ordered merchandise and then opened fire with a pistol as the storekeeper returned from his safe with change.

Jackson and his wife and son fell beneath the hail of bullets.

Whitcomb said bloodhounds trailed the killer to a point on the Frisco Railroad tracks some six miles from the scene of the shooting, but had lost the scent there.

Highway patrolmen, sheriffs and deputies from nearby counties and others are aiding in the search.

DEC 21 1941

Rudolph, who was wounded in the neck, was taken to a hospital in Selma and his condition was not considered critical. He said he believed his father had known the negro by face but not by name.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Storekeeper And Wife Slain; Negro Hunted

DEC 21 1941

MAGNOLIA, Ala.—(AP)—A posse of more than 100 men, urged onward by an aroused citizenry, combed this area of Marengo County Saturday night in search of a Negro accused of slaying a rural storekeeper and his wife.

T. J. Jackson, who operated a small mercantile store in the Mose Valley section near here, and his wife were killed Friday night, and their 15-year-old son, Rudolph, was wounded in what Deputy Sheriff O. W. Whitcomb said was the climax to a $300 robbery.

As described by the boy, the officer said, a Negro whom his father evidently knew entered the establishment about 10 p.m, ordered merchandise and then opened fire with a pistol as the storekeeper returned from his safe with change.

Jackson and his wife and son fell beneath the hail of bullets.

Whitcomb said bloodhounds trailed the killer to a point on the Frisco Railroad tracks some six miles from the scene of the shooting, but had lost the scent there.

Highway patrolmen, sheriffs and deputies from nearby counties and others are aiding in the search.

Rudolph, who was wounded in the neck, was taken to a hospital in Selma and his condition was not considered critical. He said he believed his father had known the Negro by face but not by name.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Who's To Get Currency For Killers' Catch

DEC 30 1941

Seibels Faces Problem Of Picking Lucky One With Manacles

Although Solicitor Temple Seibels received the complete support of the jury when he asked the death penalty in his argument during the recent trial of the confessed slayers of David Blakey, he still was not without his troubles yesterday when an inevitable aftermath of the case was presented.

DEC 30 1941

The aftermath constituted something of a problem, and the problem has assumed the proportions of a burdensome yoke around the barrister's ample neck, since Gov. Dixon has placed upon him the responsibility of naming the person or persons entitled to the State-offered reward for the conviction of the perpetrators of the sensational crime.

The reward offered by Gov. Dixon was $400 "for information leading to the arrest and conviction" of the slayer or slayers of the Montgomerian.

Col. Seibels declared that solution of the crime was made possible through the efforts of members of the Highway Patrol, and that the actual arrest of Ellis Howard Rowe, who later received the death penalty when tried for the crime, was made by a Highway Patrolman, W. B. Little. Members of the State's law-enforcing agency are "exempt" from rewards, the solicitor said.

However, several persons have laid claim to, if not all of, then a part of the reward, including Mrs. W. H. Reynolds, of Autauga County, who discovered the body afloat in the Alabama River, and Haleyville Police Chief Cleve Baggett. Chief Baggett was one of the first on the scene of Blakey's burned automobile found near Haleyville, and was also the officer who found Rowe sleeping in the woods 200 feet away. However, Rowe was not taken in custody at that time, but was permitted to go on his way, which he did as far as Aberdeen, S. D.

DEC 30 1941

Col. Seibels said he would base the distribution of the reward according to how the claimants, or others, fitted into the phrasing of the qualifications as prescribed by the governor.

The solicitor intimated that he would soon have on his shoulders a second reward distribution problem if the Supreme Court upholds the lower court's decision of the Dave Canty case. Canty, a negro, was first sentenced to death, but when granted a second trial was sentenced to life imprisonment. The reward in this case is $1.000.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ADMITS KILLING MANAGER

MAR 8 1941

BIRMINGHAM, Mar. 6 — (ANP) — After testifying in the trial of Frank Perdue, former manager of the Black Barons baseball team, James Turner, alias Buddy Wade, leaped to his death Wednesday from a sixth floor Courthouse window. He died as his body crumpled on the pavement outside the sheriff's office.

Turner, who had confessed to the killing of George McDowell, a storekeeper of Powderly, was in the custody of the court bailiff as he walked down the main sixth floor corridor. The bailiff said: "Instead of turning left as I told him to, he ran through the door of the criminal clerk's office, vaulted over the counter and jumped through the casement window.

"He took glass and all; he struck the glass a blow with his handcuffs as he leaped.

MAR 8 1941

The confessed killer exhibited no reluctance in telling about his part in the McDowell murder. He said McDowells' wife and Perdue "hatched" the crime and that "I did the actual killing."

Turner landed on the pavement feet first. Witnesses said he made no outcry during the descent, but did attempt to brace his body just before striking the concrete.

The coroner returned a verdict of suicide.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MURDER AT OSCEOLA REMAINS UNSOLVED

Probe Continues In Brutal Filling Station Killing

JAN 1 1941

The slayer of 28-year-old Lawrence Waldran of Osceola, Ark., remained unidentified yesterday as deputies continued their investigation into the brutal filling station murder.

Mississippi County, Ark. officers have two Memphis negroes under arrest for additional questioning. One of them, the first arrested, is unnamed by the officers and being held at an unannounced jail. The other was picked up principally for purposes of identifying the first negro arested, Captain Bill Ran- of the Memphis Police Department said.

Fund For Family

Mr. Waldran, married and the father of two young children, was beaten to death Friday night as he worked at an Osceola filling station.

Fellow Arkansans started a fund Monday to aid the Waldran family. Fleetwood Joyner, owned of the filling station where Mr. Waldran worked, gave $20 toward the fund. A former Osceola resident, Ben Bluestein, gave $5. The Commercial Appeal will receive donations and its radio station, WMC, will aid in the collection.

Sheriff Hale Jackson of Mississippi County came to Memphis Sunday and returned to his home Monday after the two Memphis negroes were taken into custody through co-operation of Memphis police. Yesterday he was reported in New Orleans for the Sugar Bowl grid game and his chief deputy, J. F. Reinmiller, was ill with influenza. The investigation was carried on by other deputies.

Similar Cars

From his home, Deputy Reinmiller said "we have a negro who identifies the first negro arrested." Deputy Reinmiller said he (the negro first arrested) had a car of the description seen by a negro at the filling station shortly before the slaying. The deputy explained the case was one of identification.

"It may collapse but it may not. It's one negro's word against the other, so far," he added. The first negro denies having been out of Memphis at the time of the beating. About $20 taken from the cash register at the time has not been recovered."

Rewards totaling $255 have been offered for the arrest of the killer or the killers. Mississippi County has offered $100; The Commercial Appeal, $100; Ben Butler, Osceola mayor, $50, and a filling station operator, $5. The station man, Leo Horne of Highways 64 and 70, urged that 100 other filling station men give $5 each to make up an additional $500.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

QUIZ SUSPECT'S WIFE IN OSCEOLA SLAYING

Deputies Check Negro's Movements On Death Night

TWO MEN ARE STILL HELD

One Jailed For Purpose Of Identification Of Other, Who Denies Being Out Of Memphis At Time Of Holdup

JAN 2 1941

A negro woman, the wife of the first of two negro suspects taken into custody in connection with the killing of Lawrence Waldran, 28, Osceola, Ark., filling station employe last Friday night, was arrested yesterday as a witness in the case.

Jailer D. L. Gaultney of Osceola said the woman was arrested by deputy sheriffs and was being questioned as to her husband's whereabouts on the night of the slaying.

Slain For $20

The negro man, whose identity has not been revealed by Mississippi County, Ark., authorities, is being held in an unannounced jail and thus far has denied having been in Osceola at the time of the murder.

Both negroes are from Memphis, and the second was arrested principally for purposes of identifying the first negro arrested. Mr. Waldran was beaten to death and a cash register containing $20 was stolen from the filling station which he operated.

"We are questioning the r woman who may be able to t something about her husband," t jailer said. "Her husband thus f denies being out of Memphis at the time of the slaying."

Family Fund Grows

Meantime, a fund to aid the Waldran family, was increased by a $2 contribution from Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Baldwin of 1840 Manilla. He works at the Bee Line Oil Co., of 675 Union. The contribution brings the fund to $27. The Commercial Appeal and its radio station, WMC, will aid in the collection of the money for the family.

"I run a filling station and it might have been me," Mr. Baldwin said in donating the money.

Rewards totaling $255 have been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the murderer or murderers. Mississippi County and The Commercial Appeal have each offered $100. Mayor Ben Butler of Osceola has volunteered $50 and a filling station operator $5.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO BEING SOUGHT FOR SLAYING WOMAN

Farm Wife Killed At Home Near Searcy

SEARCY, Ark., June 14.—(AP)—Mrs. Raymond Rongey, 18, wife of a farmer living four miles south of Searcy, was shot to death at her home Saturday and Deputy Sheriff Sam Turnage announced officers were seeking an unidentified 175-pound negro in connection with the slaying.

Mrs. Rongey's brother-in-law, Hardy Rongey, found her body near her back door. He had been working in a field nearby and upon hearing gunfire went to the house to investigate. He told officers that he had observed a negro leaving the vicinity of Mrs. Rongey's home about the time of the shooting.

Turnage said Mrs. Rongey apparently had been called to her yard while drying the morning dishes and had struggled with her assailant before she was shot four time, once in the neck and thrice in the back.

The officers said a negro, probably the one seen by Hardy Rongey, had obtained a ride into Searcy with a neighbor of the Rongeys soon after the slaying and had disappeared. A large posse of city and county officers, state police and armed citizens began a search for the negro.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

COURT REVERSES DEATH SENTENCE

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark., June 5—The last minute actions of the Arkansas Supreme Court saved Mrs. Mary Dinwiddie from the electric chair for the murder of C. R. Davis, a white man, who was night watchman at the Critz Chevrolet Co. Even this would have ben impossible if Reverend M. D. Willette had not taken an active interest in the case and raised the necessary funds to fight for this woman's life.

On September 14, 1940 she was tried and convicted in the Pulaski Circuit Court and sentenced to die in the electric chair on January 17, 1941. Five days before the date set for execution, Reverend Willette secured the necessary funds from church organizations and private individuals, hired legal counsel and prepared briefs for the State Supreme Court, and won a hearing before that body.

The Court ruled that the State's evidence was conflicting, and based on allegations not facts. It ruled that if Mrs. Dinwiddie and Davis had had immoral relations as was charged, then it followed that she did not go to the place where he worked for the express purpose of murdering him. They thus reversed the decision of the lower court.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO IS QUESTIONED IN WOMEN'S DEATHS

Officers Probe Killings At Texarkana, Kansas City

TEXARKANA, Ark., June 24.—(INS)—Police sought Tuesday to connect a 32-year-old negro held in Texarkana for the murder of an 18-year-old Searcy, Ark., bride, with the deaths of two socially prominent women, one at Texarkana and the other at Kansas City.

The negro was John Edwards, alias John Wood, alias James Washington. He was apprehended in Dallas, Texas, after an alleged attempt to assault a Greenville, Texas, woman. He underwent strenuous questioning in the escape-proof cell on the top floor of the new Miller County jail here Tuesday.

Officers said the negro admitted the Searcy slaying, in which Mrs. Raymond Rongey was shot four times in the back as she fled from her assailant.

He was being questioned also regarding the slaying a year ago of socially prominent Mrs. R. J. O'Dwyer, 41. She was found with her throat slashed, and she had been clubbed about the head. This crime bore a marked resemblance, officers said, to the slaying of a young socialite in Kansas City recently. The negro, police said, is a former railroad employe, and traveled between Kansas City and Texarkana regularly.

Edwards has served terms in the Arkansas and Texas penitentiaries for car theft, assault with intent to kill, and box-car robbery.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO THEATER OWNER AT HELENA IS SLAIN

A. T. Jones Is Held In Killing Of George Miller

Special to The Commercial Appeal

HELENA, Ark., Oct. 2.—George Miller, 37, negro owner of the Plaza Theater here, was shot to death at his theater Wednesday night about 11 o'clock by a negro identified by police as A. T. Jones, 19, of Shelby, Miss.

Chief of Police Lucian Webster arrested Jones shortly after the shooting after Irvin Miller, head of a negro traveling troupe of players, and other bystanders had subdued the killer and taken his gun. Officers said Jones was badly beaten and cut about the head.

Officers said that Miller apparently was killed in a holdup attempt. They said Jones, who says he is a licensed preacher, has admitted having been responsible for a series of holdups here and in West Helena during the past week in which one negro was shot in the back and is now in a hospital here in a serious condition.

Miller was a graduate of Howard University, Washington. He had been a trustee in Arkansas Baptist College for several years.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO SLAYER TO DIE

Mississippi Preacher Sentenced For Killing Helena Theater Owner

HELENA, Ark., Nov. 5.—A. T. Jones, 24, negro preacher from Shelby, Miss., must die in the electric chair for the Oct. 1 holdup slaying of George Miller, 38, Helena negro theater owner.

A jury in Phillips County Circuit Court late Wednesday returned a verdict of murder in the first degree and fixed his punishment at death, ignoring the plea of the defense that Jones was temporarily insane at the time the killing took place, a condition which Jones blamed on heavy drinking for several nights prior to the murder. Physicians at the State Hospital for Nervous Diseases last week pronounced him sane after a week's observation at the direction of Circuit Court Judge E. M. Pipkin.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO UNDER ARREST IN PARKIN SLAYING

JAN 7 1941

Bunyon Seewood Held For Constable's Death

Special To The Commercial Appeal

WYNNE, Ark., Jan. 6.—Bunyon Seewood, Parkin negro, is held in jail on a charge of murder in connection with the death of Deputy Constable James E. Shelby, 55, of Parkin, last Aug. 5. The arrest was made in Chicago Thursday night at the request of Sheriff DeLoss McKnight.

Seewood waived extradition.

According to Sheriff McKnight, Seewood denies any knowledge of the crime.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

STATE PREPARES CASE IN OSCEOLA SLAYING

Prosecutor Is Ready, But Two Negroes Remain In Jail

HEARING MAY BE HELD

Defendants In Waldran Murder Also Could Waive Preliminary Trial And Be Indicted In Court In March

FEB 3 1941

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Feb. 2.—Sheriff Hale Jackson of Mississippi County continues to hold two negro suspects in jail at Osceola in connection with the slaying Dec. 27 of Lawrence Waldran, 30-year-old Osceola service station attendant.

The negroes, Jim Davis, 28, and Wash (Schoolboy) Thomas, 35, both of Memphis, may be arraigned for a preliminary hearing on murder charges or they may waive the hearing and be indicted in the Criminal Division of Circuit Court when the next session is held at Osceola in March.

State Ready With Case

L. C. B. Young of Osceola, deputy prosecuting attorney, has announced that the state is ready with its case against the two negroes.

Meanwhile, Waldran's widow and two young daughters have gone to Marie, Ark., in the southern part of Mississippi County, to stay with Mrs. Waldran's sister.

The Dud Cason Post, American Legion, in Blytheville is holding $16.80 which will go toward a fund to aid the victim's family. This amount represents 10 per cent of the gross receipts of a boxing match staged here recently for the benefit of the family and is to be added to a $27 fund donated by sympathizers in Blytheville, Osceola and Memphis.

Waldran's slaying was one of the most brutal in the history of the county. The victim was found with his head crushed, near the gasoline tanks of the Joyner Service Station at Osceola, where he was employed. The station's cash register was missing with $20 in cash and an additional $9 had been taken from Waldran's pocket.

Auto Is Identified

A week later the Memphis negroes were arrested as suspects by Sheriff Jackson and his deputies. The officers said they were identified by "a reliable witness' who said he saw the maroon colored car owned by Davis at the filling station about five minutes before the victim's body was found. Later, Mr. Jackson said, the witness identified Davis among a group of jail prisoners.

During the investigation several other persons were questioned including Davis' wife, who was released. Two Oklahoma men, arrested here on charges of car theft shortly after the slaying, also were questioned for several days but were released to Federal officers on the car theft charge.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

YOUNG CLERIC'S CRIME CAREER SHORT LIVED

Killed Owner Of Movie During Robbery Which Failed

HELENA, Ark.—The young Shelby, Miss., preacher, A. T. Jones, who shot and killed George Miller, theatre owner on October 1, was sentenced to die in the electric chair by a jury of 10 white men and one Negro on November 5, in a first degree murder trial in circuit court.

The verdict of guilty was reached in a short 10 minutes after the defendant had pleaded insanity caused by talking a drink of liquor.

The killing took place at the box office of the theatre where Jones is supposed to have attempted to rob Miller who was relieving the box-office clerk. Irvin C. Miller, stage producer, was hero of the occasion when he caught and held the murderer until assistance arrived.

According to evidence at the trial, Jones was badly beaten by his captors by the time police arrived on the scene. Jones denied he had gone to the box office for the purpose of robbing it. He stated that he had gone to secure a ticket to see the show then playing at the theatre. He said he remembered nothing that transpired after he asked for the ticket until he aroused to find himself being beaten. He attributed the condition to a daze the one drink of liquor had caused. He said it was his first drink.

During the trial Jones had sobbed out, "Oh, why did I drink that whiskey . . . I didn't mean to kill him." His mother had testified on the witness stand earlier in the trial how A. T. had always been a "good boy."

The date of execution was set for January 23, 1942.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

"Justifiable Homicide" Is Verdict of Jury

MAY 10 1941

Twenty-eight-year-old Patrolman Francis E. Davis, white, of the Second Precinct, took the witness stand at a coroner's inquest, Tuesday, the second day of the hearing, and told how he fired the shot which fatally wounded Robert Gray, 32, of 1725 U Street, Northwest, who he accused of soliciting him for a perverted act and then assaulting him with a black jack when placed under arrest.

Earlier, fifteen colored witnesses who the police department had failed to produce at a hearing on Monday, which lasted two hours, filed before the jury giving their versions of the shooting. They, along with three officers, testified for three hours Tuesday before the coroner's jury deliberated twenty-three minutes and declared Patrolman Davis a free man by its "justifiable homicide" verdict.

Police Have First Day

The hearings on separate days were a contrast in testimony and witnesses. If the spirit of the slain man hovered over the somber District morgue on Monday when only the testimony of white officers was heard it must have declared, "What a wicked body I have left."

The officers referred to him as a "police fighter," and one Detective H. H. Hodge, of headquarters, testified that he had warned recruits he trained to be on the 'watch'-out" for Davis. Sgt. John R. Leach, acting Lieutenant at the Second Precinct on the night of the shooting also testified that Davis had been pointed out to police as one "when you get him you want to be sure you got him."

Captain Jermiah Sullivan, of the Second Precinct, and Fred Rawlinson, of the Homicide Squad, and Private H. C. Holmes, patrol driver, were among others to testify.

Apparent Laxity Manifest

Not a single colored witness from among the residents of the Leumass Apartments, 1201 Q Street, Northwest, alongside which the fatal shooting occurred on Wednesday of last week, nor from among the score or more of people gathered at the scene were produced. Gray died on Saturday night at Freedmen's Hospital.

By his cross examinations, George E. C. Hayes, his nephew and also an attorney, drew out that this failure to produce other witnesses was an apparent laxity on the part of the police department.

MAY 10 1941

During a conference among Dr. P. J. Murphy, acting coroner, and Mr. Long of the District Attorney's office, Mr. Hayes insisted on a continuance of the case so that other witnesses might be heard.

The witnesses heard on Tuesday all testified that they had not been questioned by police at the time of the shooting nor approached until subpenaed on Monday evening following the first hearing.

Curses Versus Prayers

In contrast with the vile language which Private Holmes said Gray used when placed in the patrol wagon to be taken to the hospital were the groans and the "Mary, Joseph, and Jesus" prayers which a number of the witnesses said he uttered just after being struck in the stomach by the officer's bullet.

The deceased was as well as members of his family Catholic and witnesses told how he called for a priest from St. Augustine Church just before the patrol came. An ambulance arrived after Gray was taken away in the patrol.

One witness, Mrs. Nola Savoy a waitress of 1201 Q Street, Apt. 201, testified that she jumped from bed on hearing a shot and looked out of her window to see the officer, who was in plain clothes fire at a man lying on the ground. This statement not corroborated by others.

Testimony revealed that after shooting his victim, the officer called for someone to call police and an ambulance. A voice yelled to him, "You call the police, you shot him."

Victim Staggers Off

When Officer Davis went to a nearby call box leaving Gray on the ground, another voice called "Don't leave the scene, you shot him."

While the patrolman was calling his precinct, Gray arose and staggered off several yards. When the white officer returned, one witness said that he had a drawn pistol and commanded Davis to sit down.

At one phase of the hearing during which emotions were agitated, two of the dead man's sisters, Mrs. Lucy Dixon, of La Plata, Md., and Mrs. Alice Mahoney of 1436 W Street, Northwest, were led from the hearing sobbing.

A third sister, Mrs. Alice Wade, also of the W Street address, and Mrs. Addie Shipman, employee of the Government Printing Office, a cousin with whom the deceased lived, were more composed and remained.

MAY 10 1941

"Met Officer Too Good"

Mrs. Shipman had previously testified that when a uniformed officer came to tell her of the tragedy, she said, "That's too bad." She declared the officer replied, "No, it isn't too bad, he just met an officer who was too good for him."

Among other residents of the Leumass Apartments to testify and excerpts of their testimony were:

Mrs. Dora Cathy, Apt. 404: Saw revolver in man's hand when he commanded another to sit down.

Mrs. Novena Ward, Apt. 205: Went to window when she heard shots and saw a man coming up the street moaning. Another came up and told him to sit down and he did. Second man had right hand in back pocket.

Leroy Chapman, janitor: Heard shots and went outside and saw man down on his knees on walk pleading for help. "He got up and walked toward me at a side door. The officer came up and told me to go back and told him to lie down. I did not see weapon."

"Shot on Ground"

Mrs. Nola Savoy: "I came home about 1:30 a.m., and had gotten into bed when I heard a shot. I jumped out of bed and looked out of the window. The man shot was lying on the ground in the areaway under my window. The man who fired was standing up about two or three feet away.

"He hollered for some one to call an ambulance. Some one at a window said 'You shot him, you call police.' Then officer went across the street to the box. When he came back the man had staggered into the Twelfth Street entrance of the apartment house. He had a gun, or shiny object in his hand, and told the man who was pleading for help, to lay down."

Rudolph Lancaster, Apt. 304, messenger in General Accounting Office: Went to window when he heard shots and saw man standing in crouch holding his stomach saying 'I'm shot.' Man standing near him told him to sit down and he did. "The man who did the shooting backed away still holding something shiny in his hand and told the other man to keep quiet."

Awakened by Argument

Mrs. Frances Lancaster, Apt. 304: Was awakened by an argument in low tones. Heard shots and looked out of window to see white man holding pistol at chest of man who saying "I'm shot in stomach."

MAY 10 1941

"The white man asked someone to call police and I left window to do so. When I went back to window, the man who had shot the other had gone away. The wounded man stumbled toward the building, praying, 'Mary, Joseph, and Jesus help me! Somebody please get a priest!"

Mrs. O'Neal, Apt. 104: "I heard scuffling like some one was trying to break in. I saw two men scuffling and I heard two shots fired. Both men were on feet when the shots were fired." She also told of hearing Gray praying and asking for a priest.

Others whose testimony was much the same included: Mrs. Georgia Dent, Apt. 101; Mrs. Julia Wheeler, Apt. 105; Howard Wiggins and wife, Mrs. Pearl Wiggins, Apt. 204.

Police Bolster Weaknesses

Three police officers connected with the tragedy were put on the stand to bolster the department's contention that it had exhausted reasonable methods to locate witnesses.

MAY 10 1941

Mr. Hayes drew from one the admission that he only asked the question whether or not they had seen the firing, and upon receiving a negative answer conducted the quizzing no further.

One juror attempted by his questioning of an officer to place the blame on the witnesses for failure to go forward and report what they had seen to police. Other lines of questioning by him drew forth objections by Mr. Hayes which were sustained by Dr. A. M. McDonald, coroner, who presided on Tuesday.

Davis on Stand

When he took the stand, Officer Davis said that he was attached to the vice squad in plain clothes and was cruising at Fourteenth and Q Streets, Northwest, when a man whistled. He stopped and the man asked for a match.

The officer says that the person who accosted him suggested a perverted act and they agreed upon $1 as the price. According to the officer, the two decided to go to Tenth and Rhode Island, and started off his machine.

When they got to the police box at Twelfth and Q Streets, Officer Davis says he displayed his badge and attempted to place his passenger under arrest.

Tried Blackjack

The bullet's later victim is said to have fought his way out of the machine and ran. Officer Davis caught up with him and attempted to strike him with the blackjack, he said, but this was wrested from him.

MAY 10 1941

His accoster struck him a glancing blow on the side of the head with the blackjack, the officer continued, grabbed him in the collar and began to choke him. The officer said that he pulled his revolver and his opponent grabbed the weapon. One shot was fired, which apparently went wild. The second shot is thought to have struck Gray, who backed away the officer said.

Job for Three Hands

His statement corroborated that of other witnesses relative to his actions following the shooting. Upon direct examination, he was unable satisfactorily to explain to Mr. Hayes how Gray was threatening to hit him again with the blackjack if he (Gray had one hand in the officer's collar and the other on the pistol.

Got Man in 2 Years

At one stage of the proceedings Mr. Long, of the district attorney's office, offered to introduce the officer's shirt he wore on the night of the fatality. Mr. Hayes offered no objection but intimated that he should be aiding the prosecution but was apparently acting in behalf of the defense.

An autopsy revealed that the fatal bullet struck Gray in the stomach and passed downward, the small intestines eight times before passing out of his flank. He died from peritonitis, toxemia, and exhaustion induced by the wound.

Davis joined the police force in July 1939, and has been on the vice detail since November.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

N. N. C. REQUESTS GRAND JURY ACTION IN DAVIS SLAYING

MAY 10 1941

A request for grand jury action in the case of Officer Francis Davis, white, of the Second Precinct, who shot and killed Robert Gray, Tuesday April 29, was made, Wednesday by the National Negro Congress after a coroner's jury freed the officer with a verdict of "justifiable homicide."

The petition was addressed to District Attorney Edward M. Curran and made public Wednesday, by the National Negro Congress. It was signed by Arthur D. Gray, president and Doxey A. Wilkerson, chairman of the committee on civic affairs.

"On May 6," the statement read, "a coroner's jury found that Officer Davis shot Robert Gray in self-defense while discharging his official duties. Many circumstances centering around the inquest, however, raise serious doubts that this verdict is in the interest of justice. The case warrants further scrutiny by a grand jury. It is within the power of your office to have this case referred to the grand jury. This we request you do immediately."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Policeman Placed Under Arrest In Fatal Shooting

MAY 5 - 1941

Policeman Francis E. Davis, 28, of 2236 Nicholson Street Southeast, was placed under technical arrest Saturday night in the death of a colored man who was shot by the officer last Wednesday.

Robert Gray, 33, of 1725 U Street Northwest, died at 9:45 p. m. in Freedmen's Hospital of pistol wounds. He was shot twice, according to Davis' report to his superiors, when he seized the patrolman's blackjack and struck him with it.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Coroner's Jury Frees Grocer Who Killed Boy

A coroner's jury yesterday deliberated 20 minutes before issuing a "justifiable homicide" decision in the fatal shooting of John Clark, 16, colored, by Biagio Ambrogi, delicatessen owned who ambushed and killed the boy early Sunday.

Ambrogi had been held at the Twelfth Precinct until the inquest when he was released. Ambrogi told police he hid in his store at Rhode Island Avenue and Second Streets Northwest with a friend fearing another holdup. He had been robbed once before. He said the youth broke the glass of the front door and walked toward the bread counter, where they were waiting. Ambrogi drew a pistol, ordered "hands up" and then fired when the colored lad moved his hand toward a back pocket.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

White Delicatessen Owner Ambushes Boy Breaking Into R. I. Avenue Store

MAY 3 1941

Biagio Ambrogi, 46, white delicatessen owner of 238 Rhode Island Avenue, Northwest, who fired one shot through the heart of 16-year-old John Clark, of 1607 Fifth Street, Northwest, and then struck him twice more in the back as the youth fled after running into an ambush when he broke into the store at 4 a.m. Sunday, was exonerated by a coroner's jury on Monday.

Any of the three bullets would have been fatal, according to Dr. R. Rosenberg, deputy coroner, who performed the autopsy on the boy.

Feared Burglars

Ambrogi and a friend, Daniel Weinstock, 24, of 1333 Belmont Street, Northwest, planted themselves with pistols in the store around 3 a.m., Sunday, to block entry by burglars which they expected because of recent housebreakings in the neighborhood.

According to testimony at the inquest, an individual later identified as Clark came up and peered into the store window but could not see the two men concealed behind the counter. He left and in a few moments returned and struck the glass door with an object later found to be a batchet wrapped in a cap.

Ambrogi and Weinstock testified that Clark made several trips carrying the larger fragments of broken glass door to an alley about fifty feet away. While the door crasher was making his trips, the two white men remained crouched behind the counter, neither endeavoring to use the phone in the store to call police.

Turns and Flees

After carrying off the glass, Clark is said to have returned and entered the enlarged hole in he door. As he neared the cash register, Ambrogi said he jumped up and ordered the youth to put up his hands. Clark reached toward his pocket, the two men said, and Ambrogi fired once. Not uttering a word, Clark is said to have backed toward the entrance and then turned to flee.

As he did so, Ambrogi laid down a barrage, two of the shots hitting Clark in the back. The youth ran on Third Street to the alley just back of the store and fell on his face, mortally wounded.

Action Beyond Reason?

Though conceding the right of an individual to protect his life or property, members of the coroner's jury quizzed witnesses as to whether or not Ambrogi went beyond the point of reason if he ran into the street and fired at the fleeing figure.

MAY 3 1 1941

Ambrogi said he fired all of the shots while in the store. Weinstock was not sure on this point.

Dr. Schley Brown, of 237 Rhode Island Avenue, Northwest, gave testimony which conflicted with Ambrogi's statements. Dr. Brown said he had made a call around 3 a.m., Sunday, and had just returned home when he heard breaking glass. Fearing thleves might be breaking into his auto to steal his medical bag as had been done previously, he rushed to the window.

Seeing nothing, he turned away and in about two or three minutes heard two shots. A man was coming out of the broken store door, he said, and Ambrogi was following him. "Then I heard a lot of shots," declared Dr. Brown.

Had Time to Phone

The time which elapsed between the breaking of the glass and the firing of the shots was ample enough for a person to have telephoned police, he surmised.

Raymond Cooley, gas station opeartor of Rhode Island Avenue, testified that he heard pistol shots and the shattering of glass, then several more shots. This testimony would tend to indicate that the shattering of glass he heard was Clark making a hurried exit through the jagged door and thus substantiate the testimony of Dr. Brown that shots were fired while Clark was in flight.

Near Clark's body was found the small ax and the cap with which he muffled the sound of the glass. In his pockets were a roll of guage bandages, iodine applicator, pair of pliers, and an identification card bearing the name of his mother, Mrs. Katie Clark, 1607 Fifth Street, Northwest.

Had Attended Shaw

Lt. Robert L. Schinault, of the Thirteenth Precinct, said that when he went to interview the mother she did not appear alarmed by the fact her son was out around 4 a.m. He said that he got the impression that the boy did not stay at home. John was a some time pupil of the Shaw Junior High School.

In contrast with the recent slaying of a man at Fifth and Q Streets, Northwest, by an officer when police could present no witnesses from nearby residents, Sgt. William P. Barnes, of the Thirteenth Precinct, took the stand and told of a thorough canvass of the neighborhood to find possible witnesses.

MAY 3 1 1941

Morgue attaches said that Clark had the physical make-up of a man 25 years of age, had a beard, and weighed 170 pounds. His mother said he was sixteen.

D.C.

33-1941

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

White Sniper Is Condemned to Die

JUN 14 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C. — John Eugene Eklund, 26-year old white former college students and ex-convict, heard a District Court jury convict him of first degree murder Friday night. The penalty is death in the electric chair. His victim was Hylan McClaine, a 17-year old colored boy.

It was 3:30 p. m., Friday when Justice James M. Proctor told the jurors that if they coud make the government's proof fit any conceivable theory of innocence they must set Eklund free.

JURY OUT FIVE HOURS

Five hours and 20 minutes later the twelve men returned and report that their minds had been made up beyond a reasonable doubt that the sullen, tight-lipped Eklund killed McClaine, a colored youth that he did not even know.

McClaine was shot to death last October 15, the fourth colored man in Washington to be plugged in the back by a snipper who prowled about at midnight.

Two veteran experts swore that the pistol that killed McClaine killed Theodore Goffney, 45, and Samuel Banks, 62, two previous victims of the sniper.

Both men were shot in the back on the night of October 6 last year.

The prosecution contended that Eklund was either a maniac or a murderer moved by a "deep and bitter hatred of colored people."

EYE WITNESS TO MURDER

Mildred Virginia Washington, 18, who was McClaine's girl friend swore that she saw Eklund standing over the body of McClaine, shooting at her on that fatal night of October 15.

Despite all of the testimony offered against him, Eklund remained unusually calm during the first five days of the trial which opened here on June 2. He lost his composure twice during cross examination on Thursday.

Assistanty District Attorney John W. Foley mentioned [illegible] the defendant that while he was in jail at Third Precinct Station a colored prisoner asked for cigarettes.

JUN 14 1941

DEFENDANT "BLOWS UP"

Fihelly—"And didn't you shout this to that man: 'You black son of a ————, if you had been out about a month ago I'd have given you a cigarette in the back?"

Eklund shouted back: "That's something the police have made up! I never said that."

Patrolman James W. Garland, who is stationed at the Third Precinct, took the stand to verify this same incident a few minutes later. Eklund jumped from his seat before the testimony had been completed and screamed:

"I wish you'd tell the truth on the stand!"

An officer of the court pushed the wild-eyed defendant back into his seat while James R. Kirkland and Leonard P. Walsh attempted to quiet their client.

REVOLVER MISSING

One of the most dramatic incidents of the five-day proceedings was the introduction of the Goffney and Banks murders in the Eklund trial on Thursday.

A .38 caliber revolver identified as the same weapon that sent three men to their deaths, including McClaine, and wounded another here last fall, vanished before the trial began.

Tests conducted by Captain John H. Fowler, firearms expert of the Metropolitan police, showed it was the same pistol which fired the bullets into the body of Percy McKinnie, 26-year old colored man on the night of September 28.

SNIPER VICTIM TALKS

McKinnie denied that his assailant had been Eklund and contended that Rowhelia Bailey, another colored man had shot him.

The Government put Bailey on the stand and he denied any knowledge of the shooting on September 28.

Bailey testified that he and a woman companion had spent the night at a rooming house on the date that the shooting occurred. The girl and the landlady repeated the same story when they were called to testify.

After the McKinnie shooting had been presented in the Eklund trial, the prosecution reserved the right to tell the jury about the Goffney and Banks murders.

The Government was allowed to show that Bailey could not have killed these men, because he was then in jail for the McKinnie shooting.

Until the introduction of this incident, every mention of the Goffney and Banks murders had been avoided.

The twelve men who convicted Eklund on Friday night did not know what happened to that .38 caliber revolver, they only saw 11 bullets, taken from four bodies, a fence post and a tree where Eklund was reported seen at pistol practice.

Captain John H. Fowler of the Metropolitan police, and Inspector John Henry Fitzgerald, of the Colt Arms plant, Wethersfield, Conn., testified that these bullets came from the same .38 caliber revolver.

These were the facts that had been considered when Foreman Russell G. Wolfgram walked back into the courtroom last Friday night and handed the sheet of paper to Clerk Samuel Silberman, which read: "guilty as charged."

This was the evidence fresh in the minds of those twelve tired and weary white men as they nodded their individual approval to the verdict, as Justice Proctor ordered the jurors polled.

John Eugene Eklund paled and there was a vacant stare in his cold eyes as he heard them send him to the electric chair because the prosecution had proved that he was either a manaic or a murderer moved by a "deep and bitter hatred of colored people."

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Policeman Upheld In Killing Negro

AUG 3 1941

A verdict of justifiable homicide was returned by a coroner's jury in the death of Clarence Whitby, Negro, who was fatally shot Friday by Sergt. John Leach, Second Precinct.

Whitby was shot by the officer when surprised attacking a soldier in an alley in the rear of the 1300 block N[illegible] Street Northwest. When Leach came on the scene, Whitby struck him on the head and fled.

After ordering Whitby to halt, Leach shot twice, one bullet taking effect. Whitby died in Garfield Hospital.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

White Sniper in D.C. To Chair on Oct. 8th

WASHINGTON, (ANP). — John Eugene Eklund, white sniper, convicted of the murder of three Negroes, will die in the electric chair in the district jail sometime between the hours of 10 P. M. and 8 A. M. on Monday, October 8.

Sentence was passed upon Eklund by Judge James M. Proctor, who overruled defense counsel's motion for a new trial.

Speculation was rife as to the outcome of the trial ever since Eklund was arrested on the testimony of an erstwhile friend. Declaring that illegal use of a dictaphone had been used to overhear a portion of Eklund's conversation with his attorney, following his conviction by the jury, a new trial was asked.

Inasmuch as the jury had found the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree, the death sentence was imperative.

Shot and Killed Three

Eklund was convicted of having shot and killed three Negroes in the darkness of night, declaring he had an enmity toward Negroes because Negroes had been unkind to him while he was serving a prison sentence in Indiana.

Known to police and newspapers as "The Sniper" because of the mechanics adopted in slaying his victims, when he was first arrested, Eklund was thought not to be the man, but ballistics experts and other witnesses produced testimony to the contrary and the jury found him guilty of the murders.

One eyewitness to a slaying who managed to escape, although her boy friend was slain, positively identified Eklund, and this marked the turning point in the trial which attracted nation-wide attention.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

LINK SOLDIERS TO MURDER OF YOUNG WOMAN

Say Cops 'White-Washed' Case To Save White Camp From Scandal

WASHINGTON — (ANP) —That the police department whitewashed what appears to be one of the most brutal murders in the city of Washington, declaring that the victim died of natural causes and heart disease, is the opinion of investigators who are probing deeper into the case involving the finding of the body of Gladys Green Dixon or Gladys Young near her home.

Early reports were to the effect that the woman's nude body was found in a vacant lot behind her home by a passerby. This person in turn notified the woman's sister who identified the body and called in the police.

Indignant over the turn of affairs, witnesses who knew the woman are appearing to testify that death was not due to natural causes and that she had been stabbed and brutally slashed.

Bringing the case to the attention of the youth group of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the family contacted Miss Ruby Hawkins who is one of the leaders of the group, which in turn engaged counsel to investigate and prosecute.

Coming at a time when the whole police department of the district is under fire, the sensational turn in the case may throw some light on the inefficiency of the department which has from time to time been accused of exceptional brutality towards Negroes and the pinning of all kinds of crimes, unsolved, on the Negro population of the district.

Further reports of the murder involve, it is said, some white soldiers who had been frequenting the neighborhood and had been associating with the woman.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Washington Sniper Must Take Last March Oct. 8

Found Guilty of Slaying Three Negroes; New Trial Is Asked

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—John Eugene Eklund, white sniper, convicted of the murder of three Negroes, will die in the electric chair in the district jail sometime between the hours of 10 p. m. and 8 a. m. on Monday, Oct. 8.

Sentence was passed upon Eklund by Judge James M. Proctor who overruled defense counsel's motion for a new trial.

Speculation was rife as to the outcome of the trial ever since Eklund was arrested on the testimony of an erstwhile friend. Declaring that illegal use of a dictaphone had been used to overhear a portion of Eklund's conversation with his attorney, following his conviction by the jury, a new trial was asked.

Inasmuch as the jury had found the defendant guilty of murdering in the first degree, the death sentence was imperative.

Eklund was convicted of having shot and killed three Negroes in the darkness of night, declaring he had an enmity toward Negroes because Negroes had been unkind to him while he was serving a prison sentence in Indiana.

Known to police and newspapers as "The Sniper" because of the mechanics adopted in slaying his victims, when he was first arrested, Eklund was thought to be the man, but ballistics experts and other witnesses produced testimony to the contrary and the jury found him guilty of the murders.

One eyewitness to a slaying who managed to escape, although her boy friend was slain, positively identified Eklund, and this marked the turning point in the trial which attracted nation-wide attention.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

DEATH PENALTY REVERSED BY FEDERAL COURT

Takes Crack At Police Methods Of Gaining Alleged Confession

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Holding that in a conviction for first-degree murder some appreciable time must elapse between the forming of the intent and the actual killing, the United States Court of Appeals last week reversed the death sentence of Willie Bullock, 39, convicted of killing an officer in 1932, ordered a new trial, and took a slap at police for the manner in which a "confession" was obtained.

The appellate court's decision, written by Associate Justice Henry W. Edgerton, sends the case back to the district court. Along with him, the case was heard by Chief Justice D. L. Groner and Associate Justice Fred M. Vinson. The ruling removes Bullock from the shadow of the electric chair.

Bullock shot Policeman George W. Shinault when the latter arrived in front of 39 F street, Northwest, to stop an argument between the defendant and his common-law wife, Mrs. Susan Fletcher. The policeman died on the same day. Bullock escaped and was brought back here from New Jersey in April of 1939 and convicted in June following.

The government had successfully contended in the district court that premeditation and the act of shooting could be simultaneous. The appellate court ruled that the murder was "impulsive" and thus not of the first degree.

"Statutes like ours," the opinion reads, "which distinguish deliberate and premeditated murder from other murder, reflect a belief that one who meditates an intent to kill and then deliberately executes it is more dangerous, more culpable, or less capable of reformation than one who kills on sudden impulse or that the prospect of the death penalty is more likely to deter men from deliberate than from impulsive murder. The deliberate killer is guilty of first-degree murder, the impulsive is not."

Bullock was brought back here on April 29, 1939. His counsel, Eli Grubic and T. E. McKenzie, contended that he did not receive a fair trial and that he did not have sufficient time to deliberate or premeditate to kill the policeman.

Commenting on Bullock's assertion that policemen beat and kicked him to compel him to sign a confession, that he thought they would kill him if he did not sign it, and that the jail physician gave him salve and bandages for his injuries and tablets for pain in his head, the appellate ruling said:

"Bullock's detention for more than 36 hours without hearing or commitment, which would ordinarily have been unlawful, was perhaps excused by the fact that it occurred on Saturday night and Sunday. The fact that Bullock was subjected during his long detention to persistent and repeated questioning, his testimony that the police used violence, the physician's corroborative testimony, and the fact that the murdered man was a policeman make it appear probable that violence was used.

"Yet we cannot say that no reasonable man seeing the witnesses could find the contrary. Even if there was no violence, it does not follow that the confession was voluntary. In cases decided since Bullock's trial, the U. S. Supreme Court has condemned the practice of extorting confessions from poor and ignorant men by persistent and repeated questioning, and has ruled that 'no such practice...shall send any accused to his death.'"

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Negro to Die For Slaying Of D. C. Woman

The 12 men of a District Court jury yesterday condemned William T. Mumforde, 20, Negro, to the electric chair for the murder of Mrs. Fanny Cohen, 62, when he tried to rob her.

Mrs. Cohen was shot to death in her dress shop at 1512 U Street Northwest, the night of February 15. Mumforde was caught in North Carolina and confessed when returned here that he went to the shop to rob Mrs. Cohen. At his trial he testified that he abandoned the robbery plan after he got to the shop, drew the gun to scare Mrs. Cohen. He claimed the gun went off accidentally.

The jurors took a little more than an hour to reach their verdict of first degree murder. The trial took three days. Justice T. Alan Goldsborough prably will pronounce sentence next week.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Two Facing Chair after Speedy Trials

WASHINGTON

Criminal assault and murder convictions this week started two Washington youths, James R. McKenzie, 21, and William T. Mumford, 20, on the march to the electric chair in the wake of an unprecedented crime wave which has swept the city.

McKenzie was found guilty of attacking Mrs. Vada Abarca, 26-year-old white clerk in a Fourteenth Street laundry, on June 24. The jury returned its verdict on Tuesday, with a recommendation for the death penalty, after only 1 hour and 48 minutes of deliberation.

The accused was postively identified by Mrs. Abarca as her assailant. Miss Katherine E. Harper, white, who was held up in another Fourteenth Street establishment on the day following the following the Abarca crime, also offered positive identification of McKenzie as the man who had robbed her.

A young sister of the prisoner and a friend, Mrs. Precocia Smith, testified that McKenzie had been sitting on the porch of his home at the time of the alleged attack on Mrs. Abarca.

District Attorney Edward M. Curran, who personally prosecuted the case, attacked this albi with the declaration that McKenzie had given the police three conflicting accounts of his whereabouts at the time of the crime.

Sentence will be passed by Judge T. Whitfield Davidson within the next few days.

Mumford to Die for Murder

Mumford was sentenced to death in the electrice chair on Monday by Judge T. Alan Goldsborough, following his conviction as the murderer of Mrs. Fannie Cohen, 67-year-old white woman, after holding up her store in the 1500 Block of U Street, Northwest.

Mumford insisted that he fired his gun accidentally when Mrs. Cohen screamed, after he had entered her store with the intent to rob but had changed his mind. He was sentence to die on October 17.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Eklund Kills Time by Making Clock in Cell

John E. Eklund, 26, convicted sniper killer, is measuring what may be the last days of his life by means of a cardboard clock which he has constructed in his cell, it was learned yesterday.

Spurts of air coming through the ventilator in his cell, blow against a lever of the clock at regular intervals, setting other levers in motion and resulting in a reliable time-keeper, it was said.

Eklund, originally sentenced to die next Wednesday, will have much more time to watch his clock, as Justice Jesse C. Adkins yesterday postponed his execution until January 16, pending an appeal.

He was found guilty of first degree murder last June, after being tried for shooting to death a 17-year-old Negro, Hylan McClaine.

33-1941

D.C.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Death Toll Mounts

Hit-Runner Kills D. C. Boy; Suspect Surrenders to Police

D. C. traffic deaths this year ... 80
Deaths this date last year 58
District total last year 79

Four hours after a 6-year-old boy was struck and killed by a hit-run driver in the first block of Myrtle Street Northeast, yesterday, police took into custody a man who police identified as the car's operator.

The suspect, George Bownes, Negro, 25, of 1718 Fourth Street Northwest, was arrested when he walked into the Eleventh Precinct station and said he "heard the police were looking for me."

Meanwhile in Rockville Md. Florence Dove, 51, Negro, of that town was killed when she was struck by an automobile while crossing Route 240, just north of the town. She was pronounced dead on arrival at the Montgomery County General Hospital.

Police said the car which struck the woman was driven by Norman E. Pyles, 32, of Rockville, a member of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department.

The boy victim, Marvin Marshall, Negro, 6, of 70 Myrtle Street Northeast, was struck as he ran into the street from behind a parked truck in front of his home.

Wheels of the automobile passed over the child's body, witnesses told police. The car failed to stop and sped east on Myrtle Street, made a left turn at First Street and then a right turn at K Street. The driver failed to stop at signs at both intersections, it was said.

Marvin was returning to his home from a store across the street. His mother, Mrs. Ruth Marshall, hearing the cries of neighbors, ran out in time to pick up the child's body. She held him in her lap while a neighbor drove them to Freedmen's Hospital. The boy was dead on arrival.

Bownes told police he drove through Myrtle Street about the time of the accident but denied that he struck the child. Policeman Horace Carmichael and A. D. Clarke had identified the driver and were searching for him when Bownes walked into No. 11.

In the meantime a coroner's jury held for the action of Police Court under negligent homicide the driver of an automobile which fatally injured a 13-year-old boy last Thursday.

Charles J. Divirgilio, 43, of Marshalltown, Del., was deemed negligent in the operation of his car at the inquest into the death of Allen Kennedy, 13, 2434 Franklin Street Northeast, whose body remained at the Morgue 20 hours before it was identified.

It was testified that Divirgilio's automobile skidded and struck the boy at Eastern Avenue and Bladensburg Road Northeast. Force to the collision indicated the car was speeding, it was said.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Suspect Jailed For Grand Jury In Karn Killing

Jasper Reed Martin, Negro, 43, of 1815 8 Street Northwest, a former preacher, was lodged at the District Jail last night to await grand jury action in the murder of Lewis T. Karn, 29, of 1205 Gallatin Street Northwest.

The suspect was held responsible for the fatal shooting of Karn by a coroner's jury yesterday. The jury's action committed Martin and denied him bail.

Karn was slain, May, 24, in the hallway of a rooming house at 1527 Columbia Street Northwest. Martin admitted in a signed statement that he shot the man in an argument over a cab fare.

Detective Sergt. Edgar Scott of the homicide squad, testified at the inquest that Martin was trapped through a .45 caliber automatic which was traced to him. Bullets fired from the gun were identical with the bullet taken from Karn's body, it was stated.

Martin originally had been arrested on a robbery charge.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CONDEMNED YOUTH ADJUDGED INSANE; WON'T DIE IN CHAIR

33

MAR 15 1941

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Clarence Blocker, giant youth who is under sentence of death for the murder of Park Policeman Ivan Thompson, escaped the electric chair last Wednesday when a jury in Criminal court adjudged him insane.

Instead of having to walk the "last mile," he will be committed to St. Elizabeths hospital, a government institution, and confined in Howard hall, an asylum for the criminally insane.

Justice F. Dickison Letts presided over the sanity inquisition. Dr. Andrew Browne Evans and Dr. Joseph L. Gilbert, psychiatrists, testified that Blocker had a situation psychosis.

Under examination by his counsel, Blocker himself said he hears voices and that airplanes passing over the District jail every day broadcast news concerning his case.

MAR 15 1941

The question of his sanity was raised at his trial. Government alienists and the defense psychiatrist agreed that he was feebleminded. Government alienists said he knew right from wrong. The defense expert contended that he was a border line case between a moron and an imbecile.

At the sanity inquisition last Wednesday the government did not oppose a finding by the jury that Blocker was insane.

Blocker shot and killed Park Policeman Thompson on July 14 after he had been arrested on a minor traffic violation.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Suspected Slayer Of Shop Proprietor Is Denied Bail

33

MAR 28 1941

Denied bail by United States Commissioner Needham C. Turnage, William Thomas Mumforde, colored, 20, confessed slayer of Miss Fannie Cohen, 60-year-old dress shop proprietor, was committed to jail to await trial last night.

The colored man pleaded guilty "to shooting the woman but not premeditated murder."

"I admit going to the shop to rob the woman and shooting her, but I didn't mean to kill her," Mumforde said.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Youth Admits Holdup Slaying Of Woman Shopkeeper Here

MAR 27 1941

A 20-year-old colored youth yesterday admitted to detectives in a signed statement that he shot and killed Miss Fannie Cohen, 60, of 1419 R Street Northwest, it a holdup attempt, February 15.

Detective Lieut. George Darnell, chief of the homicide squad, revealed the confession several hours after the suspect, William Thomas Mumforde, colored, 20, of no fixed address, had been returned here from Rockingham, N. C., where he was taken into custody Sunday.

Mumforde was arrested at the request of local authorities after records at the Federal Bureau of Investigation disclosed he had been arrested in Greenwood, S. C., in February but had been released.

Detective Sergt. Aubrey M. Tolson brought the man back from Rockingham and said the suspect had turned over to him a .38-caliber revolver which, according to Tolson, he man said was the murder weapon.

MAR 27 1941

Miss Cohen was shot and killed in a dress shop she operated at 1512 U Street Northwest, February 15, by a colored man apparently intent on robbery. Miss Cohen was alone in her shop when a man entered brandishing a revolver. When the shopkeeper screamed, the bandit fired one shot and fled.

The suspect will be arraigned before United States Commissioner Needham C. Turnage.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

COP WHO KILLED GRAY WILL FACE D.C. GRAND JURY

MAY 17 1941

District Attorney Promises Action in Statement to NNC

Officer Francis Davis, attached to the Second Precinct, who was exonerated, last week, by a coroner's jury, for the slaying of Robert Gray, will be required to appear before the grand jury, District Attorney Edward M. Curran, announced, this week.

In a letter to the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress addressed to the Rev. Arthur D. Gray, president, and Doxey A. Wilkinson, chairman of the civic affairs committee, the District Attorney said:

"I have your letter of May 7, 1941, relative to the shooting of Robert Gray by Officer Francis Davis, and wish to advise you that this matter will be presented to the grand jury of the District of Columbia at an early date."

The Washington Council of the National Negro Congress was instrumental in engaging George E. Hayes, attorney, to represent the family of the dead man and helped to locate a dozen witnesses who testified on the second day of the coroner's inquest.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

D. C. Grocer Kills Robber In Ambush

Biagio Ambrogi, 46, delicatessen owner, once robbed and fearing another holdup, ambushed and killed John Clark, 16, colored, Shaw Junior High School student, of 1607 Fifth Street Northwest, when the latter broke into Ambrogi's store, at Rhode Island Avenue and Twelfth Street Northwest, about 4 a. m. yesterday, police reported.

Meanwhile, more successful criminals got away with $1,827 early yesterday, police said. A safe at the Fort Davis Bowling Alley, Alabama and Pennsylvania Avenues Southeast, was cracked and $727 were taken. Rings valued at $725 were stolen from Kathryn Rivercomb, Covington, Va., who was staying at 1903 N Street Northwest. Two pocketbooks containing $356 in bills were stolen from 1725 Varnum Street Northwest.

MAY 27 1941

Ambrogi, who hid in the store with a friend, told police the youth broke the glass of the front door, and walked toward the bread counter where they were waiting. Ambrogi drew a pistol, police were told, ordered "hands up," and that he fired when the youth moved his hand toward a back pocket.

MAY 27 1941

The boy fled, Ambrogi followed and fired again. Police reported the youth died in Freedmen's, with two bullet wounds. Ambrogi was held for action of the coroner, at the Twelfth Precinct Station. He told police his store had been robbed of $85 some time ago.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Jury Dooms Eklund In 'Sniper' Slaying After 5-Hour Debate

Slayer's Mother Collapses as Son Confronts Verdict, Pale but Calm

John Eugene Eklund, 26, last night was convicted of first degree murder. The penalty is death in the electric chair.

"He didn't do it! I know he didn't do it!" sobbed Eklund's mother, clutching her throat while the jurors pronounced the doom of her son. She was carried away.

Eklund stoo derect. As he listened to the verdict, a brick red flush spread from the base of his skull, livid against the pallor of his neck and face.

The 12 white men of the District Court jury took five hours and 20 minutes to make up their minds beyond a reasonable doubt that the tight-lipped former college boy and ex-convict killed Hylan McClaine, a 17-year-old colored boy with whom he had no quarrel. Eklund didn't even know him.

Slain October 15

McClaine was murdered last October 15, the fourth man in Washington to fall before a midnight sniper who shot his quarry in the back. Two experts swore that the pistol that killed McClaine killed Theodore Goffney and Samuel Banks before him. Also shot in the back was Moe Steele, but the fatal bullets were not found.

Assistant District Attorneys John W. Fihelly and Charles B. Murray said Eklund was either a maniac or murderer moved by a "deep and bitter hatred of colored people." They produced an eyewitness who said Eklund killed McClaine, and bullets to show that his gun killed Banks and Goffney.

Justice James M. Proctor told the jurors that if thety could make the Government's proof fit any conceivable theory of innocence they must set Eklund free. They retired with these instructions at 3:03 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

When they returned to report that Eklund must die, the 12 men's faces were drawn and haggard, their faces flushed and their teeth set.

Foreman Russell G. Wolfgram, of 3119 Twelfth Street Northeast, stepped forward with the indictment in his hand.

"Guilty as Indicted"

"Guilty as indicted," he told Clerk Samuel Silberman.

Fromthe front row of the spectators' seats came a gasp. Mrs. Sadie Eklund, 2109 F Street Northwest, who was "absolutely confident" that her boy would go free, strained forward from the bench, trembling hands grasping her throat.

Horror and disbelief spread over her face, and tears glistened in her tired eyes, while Clerk Silberman inquired:

"Your foreman says your verdict is 'guilty as charged.' Is that your verdict?"

Eleven other heads bobbed, and from Mrs. Eklund came a strained monotone, "He didn't do it. I know he didn't do it. I know he didn't do it . . ."

As is the custom when death is the penalty Justice Proctor ordered the jurors polled. Eklund stared into each man's eyes, while his shoulders twitched and the livid blush spread about the nape of his neck to the size of a man's palm.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Death in the Dark

Girl Identifies Eklund in Court As Slayer of Her Boy Friend

Last fall, colored people in Washington were afraid to go out at night alone because a killer was hunting them down.

One after another, at least three fell before swift, savage pistol fire from behind.

John Eugene Eklund, a 26-year-old college student with a prison record, sat stiff and silent in the District Court all yesterday while two prosecutors addressed themselves to the business of sending him to the electric chair as the killer.

Eklund's dull, steady eyes were the only things about him that moved while Assistant District Attorney Charles B. Murray outlined his evidence to the jury of 12 men. Murray promised to show that Eklund killed the most recent of the sniper's victims, a 17-year-old colored youth named Hyland McClaine, whom Eklund did not know and with whom he had no quarrel. That was the night of October 14.

"Something made him kill!" said Murray. There are witnesses who say that he entertained a deep and bitter hatred of colored people." Saying no more about Eklund's motive, the prosecutors called witnesses to tell how McClaine died.

The youth's girl friend, Mildred Virginia Washington, 18, said she had been to a dance with his sister. She went home with the sister and asked McClaine to walk with her to her own home. It was dark and there had just been some killing down there," she explained.

So the two walked on Rock Creek Parkway. Near a temporary bridge at K Street Northwest, she heard a man close behind them. He stepped into the bushes, then came out and ran toward them, holding an exploding pistol in both his hands. McClaine fell, with a bullet in his head and another in his body. She ran, but she saw the sniper first, she said.

"And do you see that man in this court?" asked Assistant District Attorney John W. Fihelly.

"Yes, I do."

Puts Hand On His Shoulder

Then the girl walked slowly away from the witness stand and around the counsel table. Fixed on her were the eyes of the 12 jurors, the several score spectators, many of them colored. All eyes but Eklund's. Heedless his level stare at the witness box she had left until she placed her hand firmly on his shoulder.

"This is him."

Eklund merely looked startled as he swung his head toward her.

Defense Counsel James R. Kirkto the crime with a second strand of evidence.

What Attorney Kirkland and his associate, Leonard P. Walsh, will advance in defense remains to be heard. When the time came for their opening statement, they asserted their right to reserve their case.

Eklund was led back to the District Jail last night. His jurors were taken away under surveillance almost as close, to sleep at the Continental Hotel. Justice James M. Proctor explained to them that he thinks it best to keep them from all contact with the outside world until their verdict has been returned.

The jurors are Russell G. Wolfgram, 35, Peoples Drug Store employe, 3119 Twelth Street Northeast; Donald H. Mead, 32, Washington Gas Light Co. employe, 2807 Fifth Street Northeast; Jesse H. Plowman, department store clerk, 336 O Street Southeast; Malcolm S. Beaton, 36, postal clerk, 2937 Nash Place Southeast; Walter H. Smith, 53, manager, Remington-Rand, 3422 Fulton Street Northwest; George H. Drury, 57, salesman, 1724 Lamont Street Northwest; William H. Inman, 62, Veterans Administration clerk, 602 Gallatin Street Northwest; Cornelius A. Sweeney, 44, Government Printing Office employe, 3914 Tenth Street Northeast; George F. King, 61, tire salesman, 4016 Fourteneth Street Northwest; Frank J. Healy, 57, postal clerk, 1622 Seventeenth Street William A. Adam, 32, sales engineer, 4404 Faraday Place Northwest; and Harry M. Ambrose, 39, City postoffice architect, 1722, Nineteenth Street Northwest.

33-1941

FLORIDA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

FLA. MAN MUST DIE IN CHAIR

APR 12 1941

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Apr. 10—Cornelius Purdy, convicted of murder, was sentenced to die in the Florida electric chair last week by Circuit Judge Miles W. Lewis. His court appointed lawyer, P. Guy Crews, said he would appeal the case to the State Supreme Court.

In sentencing Purdy the Judge denied the appeal filed in behalf of the man after a jury returned the guilty verdict two weeks ago. Purdy, 36, was accused of killing James R. Rogers and a woman companion, both white, on December 30, while they were parked in a car at the foot of Georgia street in East Jacksonville.

Purdy was only tried for the murder of the white man. In announcing the sentence, Judge Lewis said, "I realize this is a case of pure circumstantial evidence but, I am convinced of your guilt."

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Fla. Prosecutor Joins In New Trial Demands For Condemned Men

APR 19 1941

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., April 17—Reinstatement of appeals dismissed in 1938 when counsel appointed by the trial udge failed to perfect them by completion of the required legal proceedings—is requested in petititons just filed with the Florida Supreme Court by Willie Anderson and Kenzie Surency, for whom death warrants were issued several weeks ago. Both men are under sentence of death for the murder of T. W. Higginbotham Duval County white man, of which they were convicted in 1935.

"In order that justice may be done by consideration of the cases upon their merits," Atty. General Thomas Watson has joined with S T. Memory, recently employed as counsel for the condemned, in asking that the appeals be reinstated

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Co-Defendant Swears Floridian Condemned In Slaying Innocent

APR 10 1941

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—(AP)—Clyde Hysler, who is scheduled to die in the Florida electric chair next week, asked the Supreme Court Thursday to authorize reopening of his case on an affidavit from a co-defendant that Hysler had nothing to do with the killing of Mrs. Mayme Surrency but another man did.

Hysler's attorney, P. Guy Crews, filed with the court an affidavit in which James Baker, Negro, said that "the man who planned the robbery" in which Mrs. Surrency and her husband were killed in Duval County, was Joe Peterson and not Clyde Hysler."

APR 10 1941

"Had it not been that Joe Peterson planned the robbery and hired Alvin Tyler and myself to rob Mrs. Surrency (Sic) they would probably have still been living and we would not be in any trouble" Baker's affidavit said.

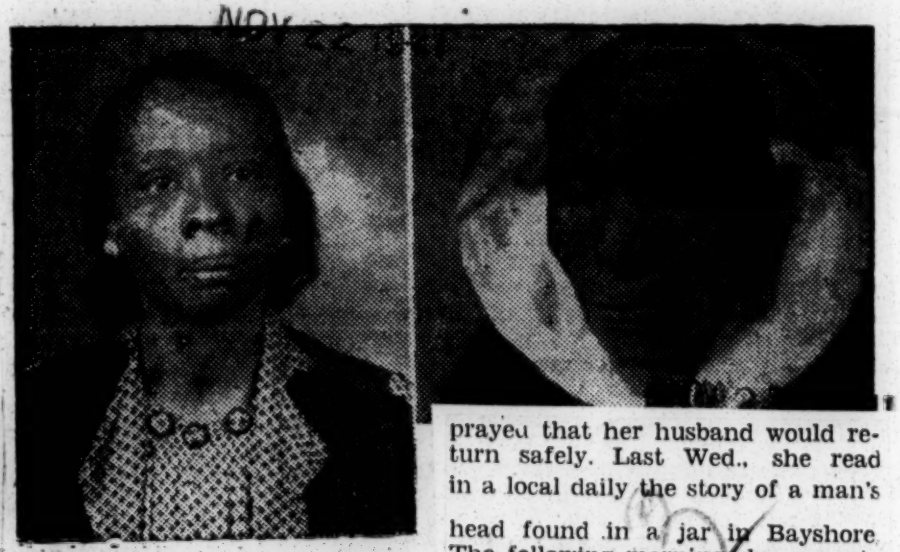
Baker also is scheduled to die for the killing next week. Tyler is not in custody. The affidavit was signed at Raiford April 7.

Crews said he does not know the Joe Peterson named in Baker's affidavit but "I think he is dead."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Man's Head Found In Jar

Identified By Widow Of Deceased



JACKSONVILLE. Fla.—(SNS)—Mrs. Nora James, left, this week identified the man's head, pictured above as her husband, Clarence James, of Lem Turner, Florida.

Clarence James' head was found last week in a white subdivision, Bayshore, in a jar. The head was in a solution of formaldyhyde, a jar in brushes of a vacant lot in Bayshore, this subdivision being about six miles from Jacksonville proper.

In an interview, Mrs. James stated that her husband left home on the morning of April 1st, to go into Jacksonville to do some shopping. She further stated that he received a monthly pension. He had received his check on this same morning. For eight months, Mrs. James said that she had watched and prayed that her husband would return safely. Last Wed., she read in a local daily the story of a man's head found in a jar in Bayshore. The following morning she came to town and went to the funeral establishment to view the head—It was her husband.

The couple has a son, Eddie James about 23 years old. Mrs. James doesn't know the whereabouts of this son; he has been gone for several years. Clarence James was fifty years old.

This gruesome crime has attracted wide attention. Approximately five thousands persons have visited the Lawton L. Pratt Funeral Home to glimpse the head without a body No clue to the crime has been found as yet. Mrs. James stated that she knew nothing of her husband having any enemies.

33-1941

GENERAL

Charlotte, N. C., News
January 19, 1941

A Remedy?

Negroes, Beset by Murders, Are Due Full Protection

Whether or not Negro police officers are necessary to bring down this murder rate, whether or not they could bring it down, are questions for the Council, the City Manager and the Chief of Police to answer. Certainly the report from other Southern cities which employ Negro police officers is encouraging.

Not a single unfavorable report was received by The News. On the contrary, the Chief of Detectives in Galveston said that their service was "very satisfactory." The Chief of Police of Daytona, Fla. said that "the system has worked to good advantage in our city, and the Negro officers have produced very good results for our department.

As to the radical nature of such an innovation, the Chief of Police of Knoxville said, "We have had colored police officers ever since there has been a city."

Yet it would be obtuse to deny that, for a city which has never tried Negro officers, there are ticklish possibilities to be taken into consideration. They deserve to be dealt with realistically rather than to be glossed over in a super-sanguine spirit that all is for the best in this best of all possible worlds.

An indication that the matter is being approached in the right spirit comes from the holding of a conference last Friday between prominent Negro citizens and officials of the City and its Police Department. After all, it is the Negroes, for the present at least, whose lives are jeopardized by this wild tendency to murder. They are due full protection.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Scott Advocates Execution In Unwarranted Slayings

ED. NOTE: This article was written by Mr. Scott, general manager of the Scott Newspaper Syndicate at the request of Mrs. Jesse Daniel Ames of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Inc., current issue of the commission's publication, Southern Frontiers.

JUL 1 2 1941

WAYS TO REDUCE NEGRO HOMICIDES
By C. A. Scott

FOR THE PAST several years and especially since 1934 the writer and the Atlanta Daily WORLD have been greatly interested in the problem of Negro homicides in Atlanta and the South. The condition has been consistently publicized in a hope that it would be improved. There is no question about the increasing seriousness of the homicide situation.

A survey made by the Atlanta Daily WORLD covering the period of 1933 through July, 1936, shows that 311 Negroes were killed by their fellowmen. This figure is ten times the number of white homicides during the same period. During 1937 there were 114 colored homicides; in 1938 there were 80; in 1939 there were 99 and in 1940 the number increased to 101. There were only 8 white homicides in 1940. The Negro population of Atlanta is only approximately one-third of the whole. But the number of colored homicides is over ten times that of the white population. So it appears that the chances a Negro will be killed in Atlanta are about thirty times greater than those of a white person.

JUL 1 2 1941

The commonest types of difficulties out of which homicides arise are:

(a) Failure to pay petty gambling debts.

(b) Quarrles over women.

(c) Arguments over trivial matters while drinking.

But perhaps the main reasons that a Negro will so quickly resort to the use of a deadly weapon upon the slightest provocation are:

(a) The feeling that he will get away with it.

(b) Or if punished, only a light sentence will be meted.

JUL 1 2 1941

Recently in an editorial The Lighthouse and the Informer of Charleston, S. C., deploring the homicide situation among Negroes in that state, commented:

"Why do Negroes place so little premium on Negro life? Following South Carolina courts the last few days a possible explanation is at hand. It is a known fact that potential Negro slayers steer clear of whites for fear of heavy penalties. On the other hand, they tell you quickly, 'It don't cost nothing to kill a Negro.' In one court during the week the day's worked summed up in this manner: Two Negroes convicted of burglary and sentenced to 10 to 15 years respectively. Two other Negroes, convicted of killing two Negroes, sentenced to two years respectively."

Above we have stated a condition and response to it that existed in Georgia and South Carolina, but unfortunately this same condition and [illegible] prevail in most other southern cities and states.

JUL 1 2 1941

The natural question that arises now is what is to be done about this Negro homicide situation. I venture to answer this question as follows:

(a) Provide more schools and recreational facilities for Negroes.

(b) More vigorously enforce the law against carrying of knives and pistols. Too many Negroes carry large knives.

(c) Put more Negroes on juries trying all-Negro crimes. This will insure adequate punishment for Negro killers.

(d) Provide colored police for densely populated colored areas, although in my opinion white officers have done a good job of rounding up Negro criminals under the circumstances. But colored officers would have a natural advantage in discovering dives, rounding up suspects and getting witnesses to testify. Testimony is important in any case.

I believe in the principle of the Mosaic [illegible] which advocates an "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" when it comes to the question of Negro homicides. In other words, Negroes who wantonly take human life should be executed by the state.

JUL 12 1941

##
33-1941

GEORGIA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Unidentified Atlantan Dies From Stab Wounds

JAN 19 1941

An unidentified man was dead on arrival late Saturday night at Grady Hospital. His death was caused by a stab wound of the mid-section it was reported.

An ambulance dispatched from Hanley's Ashby Street funeral home rushed the body to the hospital. The victim was picked up from the rear of a Trammell St., N.W., address, it was learned.

Police Saturday night also were seeking the gunman who shot and critically wounded Tommie Harvey, 34, of the rear of a Capital Avenue address. Harvey was shot in the abdomen, Grady reports revealed.

H. G. Ingram, 30, of 958 Michigan Avenue, stabbed twice in the left side of his chest early Saturday morning near Hunter and Jeptha Streets, was reported in a serious condition.

Charles Isom, 30, of 272 Decatur Street, S.E., was reported improved Saturday night. He suffered a fractured skull late Friday night. Investigating officers quoted a witness as saying Isom's attacker beat his head against a floor after knocking him in the head with a hard instrument.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Life Term Given Negro in Killing

FEB 7 1941

CORDELE, Feb. 6 — Lewis Smith, Negro, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a jury in Crisp superior court Wednesday.

Smith, well known Cordele Negro, escaped after killing the other Negro and was at lodge for several years. Recently he was captured in Augusta.

Crisp superior court has been busy this week on both the civil and criminal dockets. The grand jury adjourned for the term Tuesday.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Officers Seek Third Man in River Slaying

JAN 7 - 1941

Deputy Sheriff Oscar Harris said last night he was holding two Negroes who had confessed complicity in the spectacular slaying of another Negro on Fifth street bridge Saturday night and said he was searching for a third man believed involved.

In custody were Arthur Joe Simons, 20, and James Ruffus, 16. Mr. Harris said that Simons admitted slashing Henry Walker, Alabama Negro, with a pocket knife before Walker was hurled to his death from the Fifth street bridge but denied throwing Walker into the water. Ruffus admitted being present but denied participation in the slaying, the officer said.

Mr. Harrison said Walker apparently died of shock when he struck the icy waters of the Ocmulgee after dropping 30 feet from the bridge. Physicians said they found no water in the Negro's lungs and that the knife wound inflicted by Simons would not have produced death.

Witnesses said three other Negroes pitched Walker over the bridge railing after Simons cut him, Mr. Harris said. The wounded Negro grasped the railing and hung for a second but the trio beat him about the head until he lost his grip, the officer said. Walker's body was not recovered until Sunday afternoon.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Coat 'Captured,' Fugitive Escapes

A heavy problem in wind pressure confronted the state patrol last night.

All they had to work on was an unoccupied coat and the sad story of Chief of Police Stanley Harper, of Griffin.

Harper said he encountered a Negro hitch-hiker near Orr's Station while motoring to Atlanta. The thumbing pedestrian recognized the chief just as the chief recognized him as one Beeks Moseley, Clayton county fugitive from a murder indictment.

The Negro took on JUN 2 1941 Harper got out of his automobile and shouted. The departing fugitive added speed. Harper grabbed a revolver from its holster and fired. The coat suddenly rose and floated aloft—empty—and the fugitive became a blur in the distance, and then vanished.

The coat settled to earth, was captured by the disconsolate chief and was turned in at patrol headquarters.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Macon Negro Given Life

FEB 1 2 1941

A superior court jury yesterday found Alfred Waters, alias Tennessee Slim, Macon Negro, guilty of the murder of another Negro, James Lowe, but recommended mercy, making a life sentence mandatory.

Waters was accused of shooting Lowe to death at the climax of an argument over the theft of some whisky. The shooting occurred in East Macon on the night of Sept 17, 1940.

Another jury found Alonzo Thompson, also a Negro, guilty of a charge of burglary and fixed his punishment at from one to three years in the penitentiary.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Tried, Sentenced Before Victim Is Buried

MAR 22 1941

[Special to The Telegraph]

VIDALIA, March 21—Some sort of record for quick justice was claimed for Toombs county courts here today. MAR 22 1941

Willie Phillips, Vidalia Negro, was tried, found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment before the Negro, who he was charged with slaying, had been buried. The slain Negro was Eddie Shine, proprietor of a juke joint.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Freed In Slaying

MAR 27 1941

A superior court jury yesterday acquitted John A. Parker, Macon Negro, of a murder charge growing out of the fatal shooting of another Negro, James Lowe.

Sam Ray alias Andrew Burgess, a Negro, pleaded guilty to a charge of shooting at another and was sentenced by Judge A. M. Anderson to 12 months in prison. Another case against the same man, charging him with carrying a weapon illegally was nolle prossed on the motion of the solicitor general.

A jury found Willie B. Whisby, another Negro, guilty of shooting at another and recommended mercy. Judge A. M. Anderson sentenced him to 12 months on probation. MAR 27 1941

Attorney Milton M. Ferrell aided Solicitor General Norman E. English in the prosecution after Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett became ill and was unable to appear in court. Mr. Garrett's illness was not serious.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

$400 Reward Posted In Slaying At Athens

MAR 25 1941

ATHENS, Ala. — Four hundred dollars reward today was on the head of Robert Redus, 26-year-old Athens Negro, charged with firing three bullets into the body of Policeman Bedford F. Brackeen while the local officer stood at the Bus Station here talking to another officer early Sunday.

Officer Brackeen, who succumbed to the bullet wounds Monday, was buried Tuesday following funeral services at 3 p.m.

Reward on Redus' head was posted by the state of Alabama and the city of Athens. Gov. Dixon Monday offered a $200 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Redus, while Mayor R. H. Richardson offered $200 for the capture of the Negro.

The shooting occurred shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday when Redus approached Officer J. W. Johnston and Officer Brackeen at the Bus Station here. MAR 25 1941

Witnesses said Redus charged that Officer Johnston threatened to slap the face of Redus' sister Saturday afternoon. When the officer denied the charge, Redus allegedly opened fire, three bullets striking Officer Brackeen, but none hitting the intended target.

Jailed in the case Sunday were Dr. W. H. Peyton, Negro physician here, and Thomas Kirby, another Negro, who are charged with concealing or aiding a felon. Peyton is said to have treated Redus for gunshot wounds of the arm and hand.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Unruly Soldier Killed by MP at Ft. Benning

APR 5 - 1941

FORT BENNING, Ga. Private Albert King, 22, Company I, Forty-eighth Quartermaster Regiment, was shot and killed by a military policeman on the Fort Benning military reservation shortly before 5 a.m., Monday, when, according to the military police report, he resisted arrest and attacked the officer.

The post provost marshal, who began an investigation shortly after the shooting, stated late Monday morning that the military policeman shot while in performance of duty and that the shooting was justifiable. The case has been turned over to a military court. APR 5 - 1941

Disturbance on Bus

According to the military police report, King and Private Lawrence J. Hoover, also of Company I, Forty-eighth Quartermaster Regiment, were disorderly while passengers on a bus which left Columbus at 4:03 a.b., for Fort Benning. The bus driver, it was stated, was compelled to stop his bus twice in an attempt to control their actions.

The second time he stopped the bus just inside the outer entrance to the reservation on Benning Boulevard where the military policeman rode up on his motorcycle. When he attempted to arrest the two men, they broke away and ran. He followed and succeeded in arresting Hoover, but King escaped in the darkness. APR 5 - 1941

One Shot Fired

According to the report, when he told King he was under arrest, he (King) reached for a pocket, rushed toward the military policeman cursing. The policeman reportedly shot as the man lunged, killing him instantly.

No Weapon on Body

When the body was examined, no weapon was found on it, but the Provost Marshal stated that an unrusted open clasp knife was found in a shallow pool of water on the side of the brother, George J. King, of 823 the scene of the shooting Hendrix Street, Detroit, Mich.

ding to army records, nlisted at Fort Benning ust 10, 1940, and he gave he address at the time as 833 Seventh Avenue, Columbus, stating that his next kin was a

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Unidentified Atlantan Dies From Stab Wounds

JAN 19 1941

An unidentified man was dead on arrival late Saturday night at Grady Hospital. His death was caused by a stab wound of the mid-section it was reported.

3 An ambulance dispatched from Hanley's Ashby Street funeral home rushed the body to the hospital. The victim was picked up from the rear of a Trammell St., N.W., address, it was learned.

Police Saturday night also were seeking the gunman who shot and critically wounded Tommie Harvey, 34, of the rear of a Capital Avenue address. Harvey was shot in the abdomen, Grady reports revealed.

H. G. Ingram, 30, of 958 Michigan Avenue, stabbed twice in the left side of his chest early Saturday morning near Hunter and Jeptha Streets, was reported in a serious condition.

Charles Isom, 30, of 272 Decatur Street, S.E., was reported improved Saturday night. He suffered a fractured skull late Friday night. Investigating officers quoted a witness as saying Isom's attacker beat his head against a floor after knocking him in the head with a hard instrument.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Life Term Given Negro in Killing

CORDELE, Feb. 6 — Lewis Smith, Negro, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a jury in Crisp superior court Wednesday.

Smith, well known Cordele Negro, escaped after killing the other Negro and was at lodge for several years. Recently he was captured in Augusta.

FEB 7 1941

Crisp superior court has been busy this week on both the civil and criminal dockets. The grand jury adjourned for the term Tuesday.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Officers Seek Third Man in River Slaying

JAN 7 - 1941

Deputy Sheriff Oscar Harris said last night he was holding two Negroes who had confessed complicity in the spectacular slaying of another Negro on Fifth street bridge Saturday night and said he was searching for a third man believed involved.

In custody were Arthur Joe Simons, 20, and James Ruffus, 16. Mr. Harris said that Simons admitted slashing Henry Walker, Alabama Negro, with a pocket knife before Walker was hurled to his death from the Fifth street bridge but denied throwing Walker into the water. Ruffus admitted being present but denied participation in the slaying, the officer said.

Mr. Harrison said Walker apparently died of shock when he struck the icy waters of the Ocmulgee after dropping 30 feet from the bridge. Physicians said they found no water in the Negro's lungs and that the knife wound inflicted by Simons would not have produced death.

Witnesses said three other Negroes pitched Walker over the bridge railing after Simons cut him, Mr. Harris said. The wounded Negro grasped the railing and hung for a second but the trio beat him about the head until he lost his grip, the officer said. Walker's body was not recovered until Sunday afternoon.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Coat 'Captured,' Fugitive Escapes

A heavy problem in wind pressure confronted the state patrol last night.

All they had to work on was an unoccupied coat and the sad story of Chief of Police Stanley Harper, of Griffin.

Harper said he encountered a Negro hitch-hiker near Orr's Station while motoring to Atlanta. The thumbing pedestrian recognized the chief just as the chief recognized him as one Beeks Moseley, Clayton county fugitive from a murder indictment.

The Negro took off. Harper got out of his automobile and shouted. The departing fugitive added speed. Harper grabbed a revolver from its holster and fired. The coat suddenly rose and floated aloft—empty—and the fugitive became a blur in the distance, and then vanished.

The coat settled to earth, was captured by the disconsolate chief and was turned in at patrol headquarters.

JUN 1 9 1941

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Macon Negro Given Life

FEB 1 2 1941

A superior court jury yesterday found Alfred Waters, alias Tennessee Slim, Macon Negro, guilty of the murder of another Negro, James Lowe, but recommended mercy, making a life sentence mandatory.

Waters was accused of shooting Lowe to death at the climax of an argument over the theft of some whisky. The shooting occurred in East Macon on the night of Sept 17, 1940.

Another jury found Alonzo Thompson, also a Negro, guilty of a charge of burglary and fixed his punishment at from one to three years in the penitentiary.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Tried, Sentenced Before Victim Is Buried

MAR 2 2 1941

[Special to The Telegraph]

VIDALIA, March 21—Some sort of record for quick justice was claimed for Toombs county courts here today. MAR 22 1941

Willie Phillips, Vidalia Negro, was tried, found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment before the Negro, who he was charged with slaying, had been buried. The slain Negro was Eddie Shine, proprietor of a juke joint.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Freed In Slaying

MAR 27 1941

A superior court jury yesterday acquitted John A. Parker, Macon Negro, of a murder charge growing out of the fatal shooting of another Negro, James Lowe.

Sam Ray alias Andrew Burgess, a Negro, pleaded guilty to a charge of shooting at another and was sentenced by Judge A. M. Anderson to 12 months in prison. Another case against the same man, charging him with carrying a weapon illegally was nolle prossed on the motion of the solicitor general.

A jury found Willie B. Whisby, another Negro, guilty of shooting at another and recommended mercy. Judge A. M. Anderson sentenced him to 12 months on probation. MAR 27 1941

Attorney Milton M. Ferrell aided Solicitor General Norman E. English in the prosecution after Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett became ill and was unable to appear in court. Mr. Garrett's illness was not serious.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

$400 Reward Posted In Slaying At Athens

MAR 25 1941

ATHENS, Ala. — Four hundred dollars reward today was on the head of Robert Redus, 26-year-old Athens Negro, charged with firing three bullets into the body of Policeman Bedford F. Brackeen while the local officer stood at the Bus Station here talking to another officer early Sunday.

Officer Brackeen, who succumbed to the bullet wounds Monday, was buried Tuesday following funeral services at 3 p.m.

Reward on Redus' head was posted by the state of Alabama and the city of Athens. Gov. Dixon Monday offered a $200 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Redus, while Mayor R. H. Richardson offered $200 for the capture of the Negro.

The shooting occurred shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday when Redus approached Officer J. W. Johnston and Officer Brackeen at the Bus Station here. MAR 25 1941

Witnesses said Redus charged that Officer Johnston threatened to slap the face of Redus' sister Saturday afternoon. When the officer denied the charge, Redus allegedly opened fire, three bullets striking Officer Brackeen, but none hitting the intended target.

Jailed in the case Sunday were Dr. W. H. Peyton, Negro physician here, and Thomas Kirby, another Negro, who are charged with concealing or aiding a felon. Peyton is said to have treated Redus for gunshot wounds of the arm and hand.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Unruly Soldier Killed by MP at Ft. Benning

APR 5 - 1941

FORT BENNING, Ga. Private Albert King, 22, Company I, Forty-eighth Quartermaster Regiment, was shot and killed by a military policeman on the Fort Benning military reservation shortly before 5 a.m., Monday, when according to the military police report, he resisted arrest and attacked the officer.

The post provost marshal, who began an investigation shortly after the shooting, stated late Monday morning that the military policeman shot while in performance of duty and that the shooting was justifiable. The case has been turned over to a military court. APR 5 - 1941

Disturbance on Bus

According to the military police report, King and Private Lawrence J. Hoover, also of Company I, Forty-eighth Quartermaster Regiment, were disorderly while passengers on a bus which left Columbus at 4:03 a.b., for Fort Benning. The bus driver, it was stated, was compelled to stop his bus twice in an attempt to control their actions.

The second time he stopped the bus just inside the outer entrance to the reservation on Benning Boulevard where the military policeman rode up on his motorcycle. When he attempted to arrest the two men, they broke away and ran. He followed and succeeded in arresting Hoover, but King escaped in the darkness. APR 5 - 1941

One Shot Fired

According to the report, when he told King he was under arrest, he (King) reached for a pocket, rushed toward the military policeman cursing. The policeman reportedly shot as the man lunged, killing him instantly.

No Weapon on Body

When the body was examined, no weapon was found on it, but the Provost Marshal stated that an unrusted open clasp knife was found in a shallow pool of

ce water on the side of the
at the scene of the shooting.
Hendrix Street, Detroit, Mich.
cording to army records,
g, enlisted at Fort Benning
August 10, 1940, and he gave
home address at the time as
833 Seven Avenue, Columbus,
stating that his next kin was a

Seek Identity Of Body Found In River Swamp

APR 5 1941

AUGUSTA, Ga—(SNS)—Coroner R. Allen Elliott is still seeking identification of the body of a middle-aged Negro man that was found in the river swamp about ten miles below Augusta on the Sand Bar Ferry road Monday afternoon. SAVANNAH Journal

The body was found by a youth who was walking through the swamp on the Hal Thompkin's farm. He summoned officers and the body was turned over to the coroner. APR 5 - 1941

Coroner Elliott described the corpse as being 50 to 60 years of age, weighing about 210 pounds with the upper and lower front teeth missing. The body was clothed in a khaki shirt and denim trousers. The man had been dead three or four days.

There was no evidence of foul-play, the coroner said. The body still remains at Blount's Funeral Home.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Given Death Penalty

MAY 13 1941

A superior court jury last night found Willie Lee Brown, Macon Negro, guilty of a murder charge growing out of the fatal shooting of another Negro, Oscar Lee Willis, and Judge A. M. Anderson sentenced him to die in the electric chair at Tattnall prison on June 6. MAY 13 1941

Court attaches said the sentence was the first death penalty imposed on a prisoner in Bibb county in the last several years.

Brown was convicted of first degree murder in the shooting which occurred in Macon on January 18.

Only murder cases are scheduled for trial in superior court this week and Judge Anderson will conduct murder trials next week while Judge Malcolm D. Jones presides in trials of lesser felonies.

Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett will represent the state in the murder trials with his assistant, Norman E. English, as prosecuting attorney in cases before Judge Jones.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Why Many Murders

MAY 6 1941

TWIGGS COUNTY had more than its share of killings among the Negroes several weeks ago.

Anderson

"Here's the explanation," said an officer. "The impression has become widespread that bond can be given and the slayer may go on about his business. One of the prisoners charged with murder asked me the day after he was locked up, when he was to be allowed to post bond. He took it as a matter of fact that he would be allowed to make bond, no matter how grave the charges against him." MAY 6 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Execution Of Richard Smith Is Postponed

MAY 23 1941

Judge Underwood Signs Writ Of Habeas Corpus

The execution of Richard Smith, Atlantan scheduled to die this morning in the electric chair at Tattnall prison for the murder of a watchman at Rhodes Center, was postponed yesterday. MAY 23 1941

Judge E. Marvin Underwood sitting as U. S. district judge designate for the southern district of Georgia, signed a writ of habeas corpus and a stay of execution at a preliminary hearing here Judge Underwood set May 27, at Savannah, for the further hearing. Action was said to have been based on Smith's contention that his "signed" statement to police was obtained under duress.

Negro Man Slain By Chief Tucker

Arthur (alias Jack) Johnson, Negro, about 40 years old, was shot and killed instantly in the office of the Police Department late Saturday afternoon by Chief Tucker as Johnson was making an attempt on the life of L. G. Booth with a bullet mould used by the policemen in reloading cartridges.

Officers had been on the lookout for the Negro for about three weeks when he was reported Saturday afternoon to be at the store of Jim Webb, Negro, on Twelfth avenue, west. Officers Thornton, Grantham and Brown later picked him up at this point and lodged him in the city jail. He had been reported to have been guilty of disorderly conduct at the place of business of Mr. L. G. Booth on Seventh street, south about a month ago. Officers notified Mr. Booth of the Negro's arrest and Mr. Booth reported at police headquarters for the purpose of indentifying Johnson. The Negro was reported to have been under the influence of liquor and when Mr. Booth identified him as the man wanted, with an oath he grabbed Mr. Booth and shoved him through a door into the finger-printing and re-loading room where he picked up a set of bullet moulds, and it is further reported had them drawn on Mr. Booth when Chief Tucker fired.

Johnson, it is said, had a reputation in the Negro section of the city as being a "bully" and a bad Negro.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Sparta Negro Convict Dies of Gunshot Wound

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

SPARTA, Ga., Nov. 11.—Boston Evans, Negro convict, died Monday from the effects of a shotgun wound inflicted by Willis Archer, guard at the county stockade, on Sunday afternoon. According to the evidence at the coroner's inquest, the Negro was ordered to stop fighting another convict by Guard Archer and when he refused Archer shot him in the arm. The arm was amputated by the prison physician and Evans died from shock and loss of blood.

The jury assembled by acting Coroner H. A. Berry brought a verdict stating that "Evans came to his death from a gunshot wound inflicted by Guard Archer and the act was deemed justifiable. The fight occurred in the "bull pen" where the convicts were assembled on Sunday.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Willie Bryant Goes on Trial Second Time in Trice Slaying

JUN 1 1941

Charged with the holdup-slaying of Zack T. Trice here in 1939, Willie Bryant, Macon Negro, went on trial for the second time in Bibb superior court yesterday.

Bryant was convicted of the murder in a previous trial but won a new trial from the supreme court.

Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett called the first of a list of 30 state's witnesses yesterday afternoon.

Principal state's witness in the opening session of the trial, which is expected to require the remainder of the week, was Mitchell Brinkley, Negro employe of the oil company plant where Trice was killed who himself once was charged with the slaying.

Brinkley testified that an unmasked Negro forced him into a shed and locked the door before shooting Trice and escaping with a cash box containing about $800. Brinkley said he could not see well enough in the half-light of late afternoon to identify the murderer.

Bryant is represented by Benning M. Grice and W. A. Bootle, who were appointed by the court to defend the Negro. The trial will continue today.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Woman Killed, Two Injured In Shootings

JUN 14 1941

A white man and a Negro man were in critical condition at Macon hospital last night and a Negro woman was dead as the result of a series of shootings in the city and county last night.

City and county officers were searching for a Negro, listed as Doc Simmons, of 110 Colquitt street, accused of shooting the white man, E. C. Darity, as he sought to collect a debt.

The shooting happened near Darity's store at the corner of Colquitt and Toombs streets, B. B. McGahee and H. J. Howard, investigating officers, reported.

Darity was shot once through the chest and suffered lacerations about the face.

The dead Negro woman was identified by Deputy Sheriff J. C. Calhoun and O. L. Harris as Daisy Bell Seals of Georgia Industrial Home road. Her husband, J. C. Seals, confessed to shooting her and critically wounding another Negro, George Drake, 320 Ward street, when he found them together in his home, the deputies said.

Robert Lee Booker, Negro of 95 Bay street, was treated in Macon hospital emergency room, for a bullet wound in his leg and detectives were holding two Negro women, Ella Daly, 121 Plummer's alley, and Della Kelley, 6 Parkers lane, for investigation in connection with the shooting.

33-1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Three Men Indicted For Murder; 49th Victim Dies

Members of Two Families Involved In Two Bills

Three murder indictments were returned Tuesday by the Fulton County grand jury. The indicted men were listed as Fred Sutton, 29; Robert Usher, 24, and Claude Parrish, 30.

The grand jury indicted Parrish, of 994 Grove Street, in connection with the fatal shooting on June 7 of Roy Hatton, 30, of 998 Grove Street.

Parrish's wife, Mrs. Sue Parrish, 27, was indicted on an "assault with attempt to murder" charge. The bill of indictment charges her with stabbing Hatton's wife, Mrs. Corrine Hatton.

49

According to testimony, Mr. and Mrs. Parrish were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Hatton the night of the crime was committed. The shooting and stabbing followed a violent argument, investigating officers said.

Fred Sutton, of a rear-Martin Street address, was charged with the fatal stabbing on June 22 of Albert Collins, of 127 Kennett Street, SE. The 22-year-old victim was slashed to death at the corner of Bass and Fraser Streets.

Rober Usher was ordered held for trial in the fatal knifing on June 24th of Oliver McClure. The passing of McClure gave Atlanta its 4th colored slaying this year.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Body of Macon Soldier Taken From River

MAY 29 1941

Chattahoochee Yields Body of Private William Arnett.

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

FORT BENNING, Ga., May 28. The body of a Fort Benning soldier taken from the Chattahoochee river Sunday was identified officially Monday as that of Private William D. Arnett, 19, of Company A, 87th Engineer Battalion. Death was caused by drowning, according to Lieutenant Colonel Herbert B. Laux, post provost marshal. There were no indications that the soldier had suffered injuries in connection with his death, he explained.

Arnett's body was sent Monday to Macon for funeral services and burial. When he enlisted at Macon, September 7, 1940, he gave his mother, Mrs. Lena Arnett, of Grant avenue, Macon, as his next of kin.

MAY 29 1941

Members of Arnett's company identified his body through laundry marks on his clothing and through personal acquaintance.

Private Arnett had been missing since last Thursday night when he and three other soldiers rowed across the Chattahoochee to the Alabama side. Arnett's companions told authorities they later brought him back across the river, so he could return to his barracks and that they then returned to the Alabama side.

Authorities believed Arnett, an expert swimmer, may have decided to go in swimming before returning to his barracks and that he subsequently was drowned.

The body was located by a searching party which included Sergeant J. B. Bellon and Private C. L. Smith, both of Company A. It was found three miles below Bradley's Landing.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Wife Charged With Murder Of Husband

Sheriff Says Negro Confesses He Was Hired to Kill Donalsonville Man.

DONALSONVILLE, Ga., July 21. — (AP) — Mrs. Curtis Warren, prominent Donalsonville woman, was arrested yesterday and charged with the murder of her husband, who was slain May 19, according to a statement today by C. L. Chandler, sheriff of Seminole county.

JUL 22 1941

The sheriff said that Mrs. Warren's arrest came after a confession by Wash Parramore, Negro, that she had hired him to do the crime, and that he shot Warren twice, beat him, and threw the body into a ditch near Gordon, Alabama.

Warren was the head of the Donalsonville Ford agency and the Warren Oil Company. He and his wife come from prominent families.

Warren was acquitted in 1938 of the shooting of Emmett Lovelace, wealthy bachelor, on a plea of self-defense. Warren's body was found near the same spot where Lovelace was shot.

Parramore, who was a trusted employe of Warren, was placed in jail two weeks ago, after discovery of several clues by Sid Howell, former sheriff of Early county. All the details of his confession were not made public.

JUL 22 1941

Both Mrs. Warren and the Negro were placed in the Houston county jail in Dothan, Ala., to await a commitment hearing next Monday.

GEORGIA

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Blows From Ax Are Apparent, Officers Say

Griffin and Columbus Youths Are Victims of Attack.

By FRANK DRAKE,
Staff Writer.

COLUMBUS, Ga., July 28. One 14-year-old Griffin schoolboy was found dead and another critically injured on the roadside near here early this morning in what police describe as a bizarre mystery.

JUL 29 1941

The dead boy was identified as Frank Bass, while relatives of the critically injured youth identified him as Burnice Ferrell Millins.

Authorities Disagree.

Trooper B. A. Snipes, who was sent here with his partner, T. H. Parker, said he believed the two boys were slugged in a car and placed on the Warm Springs highway near Ellerslie, Ga., in Harris county, but some other officers from Muscogee county discounted the murder theory and said they think the two boys were hit by a fast-moving auto.

J. B. Millins, of Columbus, father of the injured boy who lies near death at City hospital here, and the boy's uncle, Wade Eubanks, Griffin storekeeper, declared in emphatic words they believe the boys were attacked either by a fiend or a liquor runner.

Ax Believed Weapon.

Both boys had ghastly gashes on the backs of their heads, but were little injured elsewhere. Dr. F. C. Sinson, Harris county physician, who was the first doctor to see the body of the Bass boy, asserted he believes the blow that killed the youth was inflicted by an ax.

"Lookout, Frank," the Millins boy murmers through unconscious lipe, and once he said "Don't hit me on the head any more."

Another time (as he was being brought to Columbus) he said "Don't drive too fast around the curve."

L. T. Elliott, of Columbus, en route to near-by peach orchards, discovered the two boys lying face downward in pools of blood on the Franklin D. Roosevelt highway, 16 miles from this city, and only about one milei n Harris county from the Muscogee county line. He saw them about 5 o'clock this morning and immediately summoned help.

The Bass boy was dead when he arrived, Elliott said.

Boys Seen Walking.

C. V. Derrick, Atlanta truck driver, told Columbus police that he saw two boys answering the description of Millins and Bass walking along the highway about six miles south of Waverly Hall, Ga., at about 3:45 o'clock this morning. They were walking in the grass along the shoulder of the road, he said, headed north.

The two schoolboy friends lay together on the road, with one of Burnice Millins' arms thrown over the dead boy's body.

Both he boys had cuts approximately four inches long across the backs of their heads. Frank Bass' head was virtually caved in by the force of the blow which hit him.

The Millins youth was less seriously cut but officials at the hospital gave him little chance to survive.

Relatives or police officers sat within a short distance tonight from Ferrell Millins' bed, hanging on every murmur, because police say they are afraid they may never solve conclusively the cause of Frank Bass' death unless his friend can tell them what happened.

No Sign of Struggle.

Trooper Snipes said there were no signs of a scuffle or struggle at the scene where the boys were found. The nature of the exactly similar blows on their heads led him to believe some one "knocked them over," he asserted.

JUL 23 1941

The Bass boy's left thumb nail

was torn loose and he had a two-inch scratc hon his left arm. Both boys were slightly bruised about the chest, but doctors at City hospital said the Millins' boy's injuries apparently were not inflicted by an automobile.

Mrs. Hazel Millins, mother of the injured boy, rushed here this afternoon with her brother, Eubanks, to identify the boys.

She lives in Griffin and yesterday had gone out of town for the day.

Hitch-hiked to Columbus.

"While she was gone, Ferrell went over to the Bass boy's house and suggested going to Columbus," Eubanks said. "Mrs. Bass thought Ferrell had permission to go, so she let her son go with him. They hitch-hiked to Columbus and Ferrell's mother called his aunt down here last night and discovered he was here in Columbus. She told him to wait until tomorrow to come home and to get some money for bus fare here but we understand he left his aunt's house and went to his father's home here and told him my sister had phoned him to come home."

The injured boy's father said he had given his son about $1 for bus fare and told him to wait until next day but that the boy left against his advice and started with Frank Bass thumbing a ride home to Griffin.

No Money Found.

When the boys were found this morning, they had not a cent of money and the only things in their pockets were two sacks of cigaret tobacco.

A truck driver told Columbus police today he saw two boys on the Warm Springs highway, near where the two were discovered, about an hour before Elliott saw them in the road.

One boy turned and looked at him but asked no ride, he said.

Police said they are puzzled in a murder theory by the lack of a motive. The boys had very little money and apparently had walked a good part of the 16 miles they had covered, leaving Columbus last night. Millins said his son left his house about 10:30 o'clock last night.

No Noise Heard.

Trooper Snipes said there were two farm families living within a couple of hundred yards of the scene where the boys were found. Neither family heard any unusual noise or disturbance during the night, he reported.

State patrolmen, Columbus City Detective Chief H. M. Adair and Muscogee county officers are cooperating with Sheriff M. D. Hadley, of Harris county.

Sheriff Hadley said he did not know what caused the injuries to the two boys but quoted Dr. Stinson as saying the blows apparently came from an ax.

The Harris county physician said he believed the Bass boy had been dead "several hours at least" when found.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Griffin Youth, Head Crushed, Clings to Life

Police Fear Millins, 14, May Take Secret of Slaying to Grave.

By FRANK DRAKE.

Sturdy Burnice Ferrell Millins, of Griffin, is fighting a valiant battle for life in the Columbus City hospital and members of his family pray each day that he will recover enough to give a full explanation as to what happened to him and his pal, Frank Bass, who was found slain early Monday morning on the Columbus-Warm Springs highway in Harris county.

Both Ferrell Millins and the Bass boy were discovered in the roadway with deep gashes in the backs of their heads.

Mumbled words from a confused mind have come from Ferrell's lips and apparently he tries to tell of an attack by several persons but, valuable as this meager information is to police, the whole story may never be known unless Ferrell lives.

"If he has to die, I hope he revives enough to tell us what happened out there that night," J. B. Millins, the boy's father, said. His uncle, Wade Eubanks, of Griffin, said similar words and the injured boy's mother, Mrs. Hazel Millins, of Griffin, remains almost constantly at her son's bedside with note paper and pencil, copying down for police what the boy has to say.

Terrific Blow.

An older person probably would never have lived at all under such a terrific blow as that which cut into Ferrell's head. Frank Bass, hit harder, probably died instantly from a similar blow.

Ferrell is a healthy, strongly built boy of 14—full of vitality and a will to live. It is this strength of youth that has kept him alive thus far, hospital attaches said in Columbus.

Meanwhile, Sheriff M. D. Hadley, of Harris county, Solicitor General Hubert Calhoun, of the Chattahoochee circuit; Muscogee county police and deputy sheriffs, and Columbus City Detective A. G. Reese are searching everywhere in their vicinity seeking additional clues as to what happened to the two boys.

They consider the possibility of an auto striking the youths as "very remote"—especially since Ferrell said: "He hit me with an ax," and mentioned some Negroes coming at Frank Bass from a peach orchard. He also said something about being hit with a bottle and with a stick.

He told his father that three or four men attacked them and it is on this theory that Detective Reese is working mainly.

Grapevine Contacts.

The Columbus detective was said to have "many contacts"—sometimes called "stool pigeons," who are likely to give him information if there is ever any grapevine talk about the "murder."

Reese himself was reluctant to talk, and said he he hadn't made up his mind definitely what he was going to do. But he added, "If Negroes attacked those two boys, we'll find out about it eventually."

Many persons, including members of the family and law enforcement officials, believe the boys came upon a group of men who were drunk and that the men attacked the boys either in drunken rage or to rob them. Money given Ferrell by his father Sunday night just before the two boys started their ill-fated hitchhiking trip from Columbus to Griffin, was missing.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

66th Slaying Is Reported By Policemen

Victim Shot In Heart On Hilliard Street

City police Monday were investigating the circumstances surrounding the fatal shooting Sunday of George Robinson, of 510 Auburn Avenue.

Robinson was shot once through the heart in front of 77 Hilliard Street.

Lemine Anderson, of a Randolph Street address surrendered at police headquarters several hours after the slaying. He reportedly turned over to police the death weapon and a knife, with which he claimed he was threatened by the dead man.

According to reports, Anderson dragged Robinson from a Hilliard Street apartment after the latter, his brother-in-law, had beaten his sister. One shot was fired and pierced the victim's entire thoracic cavity, passing through the heart. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Grady Hospital.

The slaying of Robinson marked the 66th similar occurrence among colored Atlantans for the current year.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

No Lash Marks Found On Body, Jury Declares

White Witness Says Man Died Of Whipping

Flam Bell, colored prisoner, came to his death from sunstroke at the Sparta State Highway camp, a Hancock County coroner's jury decided Tuesday, according to Sheriff Bernard Butts.

Death of the prisoner brought about the investigation.

The legislative penitentiary committee in a recent report said its members found "strong evidence that Flam Bell came to his death by a person known as Guard Boss Johnson."

The body of the dead man was exhumed for the inquest.

According to Sheriff Butts the body was disinterred and the inquest conducted by Coroner H. A. Berry.

He said the body was in a bad decompose condition making it almost impossible to determine whether there were any lash marks on Bell's back.

Judge Vivian L. Stanley, of the State Prison and Parole Commission, ordered the inquest after the committee turned in its report. The committee also recommended that three of the camp officials be suspended.

Sheriff Butts declared only one white person testified that Bell died of a whipping. Approximately 40 witnesses testified at the inquest.

Warden N. A. Compton, one of the three officials who was recommended for suspension, declared the committee got its information "from some of the worse prisoners we've got."

He said he would rather be fired than have indorsement of "such prisoners rather than the guards and the best people in Hancock county."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Slaying of Negro, Father of Two, Is Probed in Laurens

DUBLIN, Aug. 18 — Laurens county sheriff's officers Monday were investigating the death of Willie Wright, Negro, who was found shot to death in his home near the N. J. Garrett store on the Scotland road Sunday.

A jury empaneled by Coroner O. D. Knight returned a verdict of death at the hands of unknown parties.

The Negro, who was separated from his wife and had been keeping his two children, was found with a shotgun charge in his chest. The children were away from home at the time.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Fourth Colored Homicide Of Year Registered Sunday

JAN 20 1941

Atlanta's 1941 version of at least one murder every Sunday extended to its third Sabbath in South Atlanta at 12:25 Sunday afternoon.

4 Officers answered a call to 1313 Jonesboro Road Sunday afternoon and found the body of Marion Johnson, 24, 1330 Jonesboro Road on the floor at the former address.

A bloody knife was found near the body. The victim had been blown through with a shotgun blast just below the heart. Officers last night were on the lookout for Tommy Lee Jones of 1274 Martin street. Sudden anger was given as the reason for the tragedy by witnesses, among them Madison O'Neal a familiar figure of that section of the city. The body was turned over to a local undertaker.

Knives and guns continued to take the usual week-end toll. Bob Harvey, 37, 524 Fraser street, was stabbed in the left shoulder at the corner of Rawson and Fraser streets Sunday at four p. m. He was treated and dismissed at Grady but failed to identify his attacker.

1 Hall reported was struck in the head with some unknown object by unknown persons in the rear of his home address on Christmas day, December 25. He suffered a compound fracture of the skull, according to reports of Grady Hospital where he was admitted for treatment.

JAN 8 1941

City officers, who said they had no report of the homicide prior to Tuesday, reported they made an investigation of the matter after complaint of an insurance company. At Hall's home, they talked with his wife and sister who said that the deceased man was returning home when hit with a brick or rock by unknown persons who were fighting at the time.

The Records Bureau at Police Headquarters revealed that the City of Atlanta had 111 violence deaths in 1940, 103 of which were various times came as much as colored. Reports of homicides at three or four weeks after commission of the act in most instances, creating a problem for record keepers.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

1st Race Homicide Reported

JAN 8 1941

Belated Report Lists Ernest Hall as Victim

The violent death of Ernest Hall, 47, of the rear of 118 Baker Street, N. W., which occurred at approximately 12:05 p. m. December 31, went down on police records Tuesday as the first homicide of 1941.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negress Faces Murder Charge

FEB 7 1941

A coroner's jury ordered Ollie Boykin, Wise avenue Negress, held for murder yesterday after she fatally shot her estranged sweetheart as he entered Terminal station earlier in the day.

The dead man was listed as James Henry, alias Jim Henry Lee Pitts, Central of Georgia Railway locomotive fireman who had been employed by the railroad since 1920.

Police Patrolmen R. S. Aaron and Al Gerhardt, who investigated the shooting, said the affair occurred at 8:03 a.m. in the entrance of the Negro waiting room. It climaxed a period of ill feeling between the two.

Officers said the Negress fired four shots from a .32 caliber revolver, striking the man once. The bullet entered the Negro's left temple and emerged over his right eye.

FEB 7 1941

Pitts was injured several years ago in a railroad-auto accident near Lovejoy. He was pinned beneath the locomotive tender when the train was derailed as it struck the car and he had to remain under the wreck several hours until he was extricated by rescuers with acetylene torches.

Pitts had sworn out a warrant against the Negress, cook at the Terminal restaurant, charging her with cutting him.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

10 Slayings Listed Here In January

Two Were Ruled Justifiable, One Accidential

FEB 1 1941

There were 10 colored slayings in Atlanta during January, police records revealed Friday.

Two of the killings were ruled justifiable and one was accidental, according to police records.

The slayings were listed in this order:

10 Ernest Hall, 47, rear of 118 Baker Street, N. W.. hit in head with unknown object, died January 1. His slayer has not been apprehended.

Jesup Fields, 41, 20 Richardson Street, SE, died January 3 of gunshot wound of the left hip. George P. Hunter, 20 Richardson Street, SW wass indicted for the slaying.

Will Dacus, 47, rear 928 Wylie Street, SE choppde in head with axe, died January 11. Will Wright 28, 953 Wylie Street was arrested in connection with the killing.

LeRoy Wilson, 30, 310 Ashby St. NW, died of gunshot wounds of abdomen January 16. James Watson, 24 of 657 Jones Avenue, said he killed the man in self defense. The homicide was ruled justifiable.

Lee A. Beasley, 20 of 931 Fox Street, NW was killed January 18. Claud Little, 27 of 654 Travis St. NW was absolved of the slaying.

Tommie Lee Harvey, 35 of rear 683 Capitol Avenue, died January 19 of gunshot wound of the abdomen. The shooting was ruled accidental, resulting in the release of Daniel Mozley, 23 of same address who claimed he was trying to take a shotgun from the victim. The gun fired during the scuffle, police were told.

Frank Lewis, 23, 1020 Smith St. SW died January 19 of gunshot wound. George (Sun) Lightening, 20 of 967 McDaniel Street, SW, was arrested in connection with the slaying.

Marion Johnson, 24 of 1330 Jonesboro Road, shot through the heart January 10. Tommie Lee Jones was charged with the killing.

Percy Summerhours 32 of 39 Jackson Street, SE, died January 27 of stab wound of the head. Police arrested John Ivey Russell, 31.

Charles Isom, 30, 272 Decatur Street, SE, beaten to death January 28. Charles Brown, 25 of 204 Butler St. is under arrest.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Killer Given Death

APR 20 1941

DUBLIN, April 19.—Frank Cornelius, Jeffersonville Negro, today became the first person ever to receive the death sentence in Twiggs county, when he was convicted by a superior court jury at Jeffersonville for the murder of his father.

The father, Huriah Cornelius, was shot by mistake when he sought to intervene in an argument between his son and another Negro, testimony showed.

Judge R. Earl Camp set May 30 as the date of execution.

Defense attorneys immediately filed motion for a new trial.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Justifiable Homicide Found in Two Deaths

APR 22 1941

Two Macon Negroes, held in connection with two deaths over the week-end, were released yesterday afternoon when a coroner's jury found the deaths were justifiabl homicides.

Mattie Ward, 229 Grants alley, was accused of fatally stabbing Oscar Jackson, Ash street Negro, on the River road about 3 a.m. Monday.

APR 22 1941

Walter Johnson was held for fatally shooting Mose Forest, 40, in the 200 block of Wall street early Sunday.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Gets Life Term

APR 18 1941

BARNESVILLE, April 17.—The regular March term of superior court, postponed until this week on account of illness of counsel adjourned Tuesday afternoon after dispsing of an unusually light docket of cases.

APR 19 1941

Attracting wide attention was the murder trial of Kennie Underwood, Negro of Johnstonville district, Lamar county. Underwood was found guilty and sentenced to serve 20 years in the state penitentiary for the slaying of Clarence Dumas, another Negro from the same section of the county.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Slaying Over Nickel Brings Prison Term

A superior court jury yesterday found Albert Barnes, Macon Negro chorged with the murder of another Negro, guilty of voluntary manslaughter and fixed his punishment at from one to 20 years in the penitentiary.

Barnes was charged with the fatal shooting of Oscar Lee Hardwick following an altercation over a nickel. The jury deliberated little more than an hour.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Smith Granted Stay From Electric Chair

Execution of Man Scheduled To Die This Morning Is Postponed.

The execution of Richard Smith, Atlanta Negro scheduled to die this morning in the electric chair at Tattnall prison for the murder of a watchman at Rhodes Center, was postponed yesterday.

Judge E. Marvin Underwood, sitting as United States district judge designate for the southern district of Georgia, where there is a vacancy due to the recent death of Judge William H. Barrett, signed a writ of habeas corpus and a stay of execution at a preliminary hearing here.

Judge Underwood set May 27, at Savannah, for the further hearing.

Smith's petition, brought against R. H. Lawrence, warden of Tattnall prison, was filed by George Willingham, Atlanta attorney. It contained several points, but it was understood Judge Underwood based his action on the point that Smith's signed statement to police, in effect a confession, was obtained under duress.

Atlanta attorneys pointed out that the action was unusual in that it was the first time in many years that a federal court has reversed a decision of the state courts in criminal proceedings.

The stay of execution climaxed a long legal battle by Smith, for the slaying of T. H. Herd, elderly nightwatchman at Rhodes Center on the night of October 16, 1938. Smith was found guilty in Fulton criminal court.

Last December, Smith petitioned for a habeas corpus in the city court of Reidsville, where Tattnall prison is situated. This was declined, and he carried the appeal, on points other than those on which Judge Underwood based his action, to both the United States supreme court and the state supreme court, without success.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Is Given Life Term in Woman's Death

Mercy Recommended by Jury in Slaying of Mrs. Bosworth.

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

AMERICUS, Ga., June 2. — A guilty verdict with recommendation of mercy was returned here today against Ollie Leverette, a Negro woman tried on a charge of murdering Mrs. Mary Bosworth, aged white woman, who died allegedly from the effects of a beating given her several days before by the Negro woman.

The Leverette woman was nursing Mrs. Bosworth at the time and testimony given at the trial by the attending physician was to the effect that evidence showed that a stick of wood was the instrument of death.

Immediately following the jury's verdict, Judge Chester Byars, presiding over court in the place of Judge W. M. Harper, who is ill, sentenced the woman to serve the remainder of her life in prison. Solicitor General E. L. Forrester represented the state. The beating was inflicted last February 6, the prosecutor said, adding that evidence indicated the Negro woman at the time was in a "drunken frenzy."

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negress Given Life In Fatal Beating

[*Special to The Telegraph*]

AMERICUS, June 2 — Convicted in the fatal beating of Mrs. Mary Bosworth, 80, a jury's recommendation for mercy Monday afternoon spared Ollie Leverette, Negress, death in the electric chair as Judge Chester Byars Griffin, of Sumter superior court, imposed a life sentence.

A jury heard testimony that the Leverette woman, while drunk, attacked the aged Mrs. Bosworth with a stick last February, death coming about two hours later.

The jury deliberated an hour.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Death Sentence Given Negro Man

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

AMERICUS, Ga., June 6.—Elmer Spence, Negro, charged with killing a Negro woman, was found guilty of murder by a Sumter county jury, which failed to recommend mercy. Judge Clifford Byars, presiding in the place of Judge W. M. Harper, who is ill, sentenced the man to be electrocuted July 4.

The state contended that Spencer killed the woman without cause while the defense sought to prove the defendant acted in self-defense.

Charley Walker, Negro, charged with killing Bob Johnson, was found guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary.

The grand jury, which adjourned Wednesday, recommended that a juvenile court be established in Sumter county.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Death Penalty Given Bryant Second Time

A Bibb superior court jury which deliberated less than three hours last night found Willie Bryant, local Negro, guilty of first degree murder in the robbery-killing of Zack T. Trice here in 1939.

Since no recommendation of mercy was made, the death penalty is mandatory. Bryant will be sentenced at 10 a.m. next Friday by Judge A. M. Anderson.

W. A. Bootle, one of Bryant's court-appointed lawyers, stated that he would file a petition for a new trial immediately after the sentence.

Once before Bryant was convicted on the charge and sentenced to the electric chair, but the decision of the lower court was reversed by the state supreme court.

The six-day trial closed Saturday afternoon, when Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett concluded his argument to the jury.

Case for the defense was closed Thursday after Bryant made a statement denying the substance of a confession county officers said he signed.

Trice, oil company plant employe, was shot by an unmasked bandit, who took $800 from the company. Mitchell Brinkley, Negro employe of the oil company plant, told jurors during the trial that he was unable to identify the Negro man who locked him in a shed before robbing and killing Trice.

Brinkley later testified for the defense that the voice of "Colonel" Dixon, Macon Negro now awaiting trial for armed robbery in Jacksonville, sounded like the voice of the Negro who locked him in the shed.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Bryant Trial Takes Turn As New 'Confession' Is Bared

A legal technicality may mean the difference between life and death for Willie Bryant, Macon Negro on trial in Bibb superior court for the murder of Zack T. Trice here in 1939.

Defense attorneys sought unsuccessfully yesterday to introduce a purported confession to the Trice murder alleged to have been made by a Negro now confined in the Duval county jail in Jacksonville, Fla.

NOT ADMITTED

Bryant's appointed attorneys, Benning M. Grice and W. A. Bootle, brought another Florida convict, Will Ross, here from Jacksonville yesterday to testify in the Bryant case, but the solicitor general objected to the Negro's testimony on grounds that it was hearsay evidence and the objection was sustained.

In a statement for the record of what the defense expected to prove, Defense Attorney Grice read an affidavit signed by Ross in which the Negro said that a former Macon Negro, Colonel Dixon, admitted to him that he killed Trice at the Sinclair Oil Company distributing plant here when Trice refused to surrender a cash box containing $860.

Dixon is now in jail awaiting trial on armed robbery charges pending against him at Jacksonville.

VOICE SOUNDED SIMILAR

Called by the defense, Mitchell Brinkley, Negro employe at the oil company, who was locked in a shed at pistol point by the killer, testified that he went to Jacksonville last week with Mr. Grice and heard Dixon repeat words used by the slayer.

"His voice sounded the most like [illegible] the man who did the killing than any voice I ever heard," Brinkley testified.

Dixon's mother, a Macon resident, testified that her son was in Macon at the time of the slaying but left shortly after it occurred.

Ross' testimony came as a surprise to the prosecution, which rested its case Tuesday after calling several witnesses.

'TO SEE JUSTICE DONE'

In sustaining the prosecution's objection to Ross' testimony Judge Anderson declared:

"I can only track the law and rule out this evidence at this time but I am sure that all any of us want is to see justice done and I am going to see that it is."

Dixon was arrested in Atlanta in March but was turned over to Florida authorities after Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett informed Atlanta authorities he was not wanted here. A forgery case pending against Dixon here was nolle prossed, Mr. Garrett said, because of a lack of evidence to support it.

The defense will continue to call witnesses when the trial is resumed today.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Cofer Accuser Denies Story

ATLANTA, (AP) — Investigation into the slaying of Dr. Charles H. Lee, St. Simons Island minister, more than three years ago, Thursday remained a confusing picture as a Negro serving a life sentence assertedly repudiated a confession implicating two white men.

Schley Howard, attorney for George Clayborn, reported that Clayborn made an affidavit retracting recent statements in which he accused Henry J. and W. H. Cofer, brothers, of the shooting.

33-1941

GEORGIA

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Knifed Negro Is Tossed in River to Die

JAN 5 - 1941

Searchers late yesterday afternoon recovered from the cold waters of the Ocmulgee river the body of a young Alabama Negro who, officers said, was stabbed and thrown to his death from the Fifth street bridge.

Witnesses told investigating county and city officers that the victim ran from a group of three taller and larger Negroes, after he had apparently been cut in the right shoulder near his neck.

The three pursued and caught him on the bridge at the Fifth street side, cursed him and while he struggled and screamed picked him up and tossed him over the railing into the swift current, officers were told.

ASSAILANTS FLEE

Several white persons, including a group of CCC youths, ran to the rescue. The three assailants fled into Ocmulgee street and turned into an alley where they were lost.

JAN 5 - 1941

On the river bank beneath the bridge persons watched to see if the body would rise so they could give assistance. Blood spots appeared on the surface but the body was not sighted.

Coroner Lester H. Chapman said he received the call about 12:20 a.m. Sunday and when he arrived hope of saving the wounded Negro had been abandoned.

At daylight, R. L. Wood, 367 Walnut street, started a search with grappling hooks. Willie Dix later joined him. Hours later Wood was forced to give up by the cold.

BODY LOCATED

About 5:30 p.m. Willie Wood, 214 Main street, and LeRoy Adams located the body in eddy waters about 20 feet from the bridge on the downstream side, opposite the side over which the victim had been thrown.

Identity of the victim had not been officially established last night. Papers indicated his name was Henry Walker and he lived in Sylacauga, Ala., star route, Coroner Chapman said.

Draft registration papers showed this name. Also there was a payroll slip from the Avondale cotton mills, Sylacauga.

A social security card had the name William Barnes and the number 253-20-8105.

NICKEL ARGUMENT

Several Negro witnesses told Deputies J. C. Calhoun and Walter Waldron that the victim became involved in an argument over a nickel in a nearby wine shop on Fifth street. The stabbing occurred outside a few minutes later, they said. The wound was not considered serious enough to cause death.

An inquest will be held at 11 a.m. today at the Central City funeral home.

Deputies had arrested one suspect last night and were expecting to make other arrests shortly.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Murder Charge Faces Negro as Woman Dies

A 27-year-old Norris street Negress listed as Vera Ballard died in the Macon hospital yesterday of pistol bullet wounds said by police to have been inflicted by Walter Ridley, 32-year-old Short street Negro.

JUL 7 1941

Ridley was turned over to county authorities to face a charge of murder. The Negress was fatally wounded in an altercation at Ridley's residence Saturday night, police said.

Also turned over to county authorities yesterday was Willie Nelson, a Negro of 411 Shoals lane, who is charged with assault with intent to murder as a result of an attack on another Negro, Lock Jackson, with an ax. Jackson is in critical condition at the Macon hospital.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

DOOMED MAN SAYS CONFESSION WAS FORCED FROM HIM

JAN 25 1941

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23—The United States Supreme Court was asked last Thursday to review the conviction of Richard Smith, who is under sentence of death for the murder of T. H. Herd, white, in Atlanta, Ga.

In his petition for a writ of certiorari he charges that his conviction and sentence resulted from proceedings in which the State of Georgia utilized an alleged confession in violation of the due process clause of the 14th Amendment of the Federal Constitution. He claims the alleged confession was extorted from him.

ACCOMPLICES WERE JOINTLY INDICTED

Smith and Raymond Carter were jointly indicted for the murder of Herd. Upon a separate trial Smith was found guilty and sentenced to be electrocuted.

Herd was a night watchman employed by several stores in Atlanta. He was found early on the morning of October 16, 1938, in an unconscious condition and seriously injured, lying ni the street near the stores employing him. He had been struck in the head with a blunt instrument. He died a few hours ltater.

CARTER ALREADY UNDER DEATH SENTENCE

The State relied for a conviction upon the testimony of Carter, Smith's alleged accomplice, and the confession alleged to have been made by Smith. At the time of the trial Carter was under a death sentence for another murder. He has since been electrocuted.

Carter testified that he kept watch while Smith broke a plate-glass window and entered a liquor store. He said Smith had a milk bottle filled with sand and wrapped with cloth. He told the jury Smith hit the watchman when the latter came upon him.

In the confession in controversy Smith admitted plotting the robbery with Carter, but claimed it was the latter who hit the watchman in he head with the milk bottle.

GEORGIA COURT UPHOLDS CONVICTION

Smith's conviction was upheld by the Georgia Supreme Court. Later he filed a writ of habeas corpus against the warden of the penitentiary in which he is awaiting electrocution. The writ was denied. The Georgia Supreme Court affirmed its denial. He is seeking a review of that decision.

The National Asociation for the Advancement of Colored People is prosecuting the appeal in behalf of Smith. Its national legal counsel, Thurgood Marshall, Leon A. Ransom and W. Robert Ming Jr., are representing Smith.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Perry Chief Kills Negro

FEB 17 1941

PERRY, Feb. 16—A Negro who was found prowling in the home of Perry Police Chief H. D. Gordy early Sunday was shot and killed by the official in self defense, Sheriff C. C. Pierce reported.

A coroner's jury conducted an inquest and ruled the shooting was justifiable homicide. The Negro was listed as Bob Pearson, about 40.

Gordy's account of the incident was as follows. He was awakened shortly after 4 a.m. by his wife, who had heard a noise in their hallway. He arose, went into the hall and as he turned on a light the Negro grabbed him. He broke loose and got his pistol. He warned the Negro to halt, but when he continued to come at him he shot him.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Is Held In Gun Death

John Dandy, 36, 103 1-2 Elliott street listed as a Negro barber, was charged with involuntary manslaughter yesterday by a coroner's jury investigating the fatal shooting of Fannie Stewart, 20, Negress, early Saturday morning.

FEB 23 1941

Coroner Lester Chapman said Dandy is being held in the Bibb county jail.

The Negress, resident of 756 Ocmulgee street, was killed by a bullet fired from a .45 caliber pistol, investigating officers said. The shooting occurred at 3 a.m. at Jolly Spot, Negro restaurant at 332 Dempsey avenue.

The fatal bullet passed through the right hand of Forest Creamer, 21, Negro cook at the restaurant, before striking the Stewart woman in the neck and emerging from her head. Creamer was treated in Macon hospital emergency room and dismissed.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
April 29, 1941

Human Life Too Cheap

The Bibb county grand jury calls attention to the fact that 25 deaths from violence have taken place in this county since the beginning of the year and that at the present rate the homicide record for 1941 will be three or four times as great as in 1940.

The grand jury makes it plain that the arresting officers have done their part. Every one of the slayers has been placed under arrest.

But the idea expressed in the resolutions seems to be that the pardon and parole system and the failure of petty juries to mete out adequate punishment are primarily responsible for the deplorable conditions existing in the county.

By far the greater of these homicides have taken place among Negroes. Leaders of that group are constantly urging their race to put a curb on this tendency towards wanton man-slaughter. The influence of the churches is freely exerted to instill into the Negro race a greater regard for the sanctity of human life and a deeper sense of responsibility.

It is pathetic to find that these efforts have not met with greater success. Day and night the bloody work goes on.

It is probably true that the ease with which paroles or pardons could be obtained in the past has had its influence. It is equally true that the average jury has probably been too lax in voting the extreme penalty.

In this connection the question arises if the time has not come when the power of the jury to fix the penalty should not be taken away and once more restored to the judge.

These reforms would help, but after all it seems that the greatest hope lies in a continuance of the campaign of education. The grand jury makes clear its own opinion that the press and the public must co-operate if anything is to be accomplished.

We feel that the press is doing its full part and it is up to the public to become move active.

It is intolerable that Bibb county should go on making records like that we are about to hang up for 1941.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Grand Jury Also Hits Pardoning

APR 27 1941

Officers Map Drive Against Killings, Other Lawlessness

The Bibb grand jury, in a resolution released yesterday, took a swing at the pardon racket and tore into Bibb county's petit jurors for dishing out ineffective sentences, particularly in murder cases.

The jury's resolution pointed out that 25 persons have died violently in Bibb county since Jan 1, more than half the total number to die under similar conditions during all of 1940.

Explaining that all the killers had been apprehended, the jury charged petit jurors and the pardon racket with full responsibility for the sharp increase in violent deaths. Virtually all of the slayings have been among Negroes.

DRIVE PLANNED

The jury called in Superior Judge A. M. Anderson, Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett, Sheriff James R. Hicks, City Court Judge Cecil A. Baldwin and City Court Solicitor Oscar L. Long last week to discuss the crime situation and plan a war against killings and other law infractions.

The grand jury's resolution declared:

"We call upon those who have authority to issue paroles and pardons to give all applications their most careful consideration and see that the court sentences are carried out. We also urge our juries to see that this wanton disregard for human life is properly punished and, when warranted, that maximum sentences be imposed."

APR 27 1941

15 MURDER CASES SET

Foreman T. Ayer Hatcher, speaking for the grand jury, said the war on crime and death particularly included a campaign against traffic deaths caused by drunken drivers and traffic law violators.

The grand jury indicted 15 persons for murder last week and Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett prepared to put as many as possible on trial immediately.

"We are anxious to do something about this terrific death rate," Mr. Hatcher declared yesterday, "but our efforts cannot be effective without the full co-operation of the public, the press, the radio, the churches and particularly those citizens who are called upon from time to time to serve in juries in our courts."

OFFICERS ABSOLVED

APR 27 1941

In addition to returning murder indictments, the grand jury has also charged those persons accused of killing others with pistols, with carrying pistols illegally, and, in some cases, with shooting at another. The motive behind the procedure apparently is to assure as severe punishment as possible for the offenders although juries may not deal severely with them.

At the present rate, Bibb county's deaths by violence in 1941 probably will be three or four times as great as in 1940.

The jurors absolved arresting officers of responsibility for the murder wave, pointing out that in each of the 25 killings the slayer had been immediately apprehended.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Man, 2 Women Die From Use Of Knives, Gun

99-Year-Old Man Star Witness In Hills Ave. Murder

APR 1941

Three violent deaths were recorded Monday, pushing the colored homicide total for the year to 36. The victims were listed as:

William Tate, 32, 625 Alpine Place.

Mrs. Minnie Parker, 27, 582 1-2 Irwin Street.

Mrs. Addie Head, 25, 332 McDaniel Street, SW.

Stabbed through the heart late Sunday night, Tate died shortly after he had been admitted to the Grady Hospital clinic. Policemen started an investigation for a dairy worker who answers to the name of "Snooks."

36

According to investigating officers, James Tate, the victim's brother, said William Tate was talking with "Snooks'" girl-friend when the wanted man walked up and committed the crime.

Mrs. Minnie Parker died during the week-end of a gunshot wound of the left side, police officials said. The woman's husband, A. C. Parker, was arrested and booked on suspicion of murder in connection with the fatal shooting, police revealed.

Detectives who investigated the shooting said the victim's deathbed statement accused her husband of shooting her on May 13 when she started out of a door following a family argument.

Mrs. Addie Head died during the week-end. She suffered numerous stab wounds about her body on May 22 at a Hills Avenue address.

Arrested in connection with the fatal stabbing is a woman listed as Lucy Head, 29, of Greensferry. Detectives said the victim and accused were not related.

Star witness to the stabbing is a 99-year-old man, Sandy Barnes, of a Hills Avenue address, police reports revealed.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

DeKALB PRISON GUARD HELD IN SLAYING OF PRISONER

MAY 13 1941

Roy Rice, a DeKalb County prison guard, was held to the grand jury without bond Monday as the result of the slaying of Lester Broughton, colored convict, at the DeKalb County prison camp off Memorial Drive.

Thirty-year-old Broughton was serving a sentence for burglary.

Officials said the slaying climaxed a row over a delay in serving supper to the camp guards Saturday night.

MAY 13 1941

A coroner's jury ruled that Broughton "came to his death from a pistol wound in the head inflicted by Rice with a murderous intent."

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Negro Fatally Shot On Hogansville Farm

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

HOGANSVILLE, Ga., July 2.—Jack Willis, a 70-year-old Negro, was fatally shot yesterday by Emmett M. Spivey, according to police records. The shooting occurred at the Hightower farm, near here, where Willis was employed as a laborer.

Spivey, who is a bailiff, claims self-defense in the shooting, the Negro having started at him with a knife when he went to arrest Willis, Spivey states. Spivey gave himself up voluntarily to officers.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Body of Negro To Be Dug Up In Flog Case

AUG 25 1941

Move Ordered To Determine Death Cause

ATLANTA, [AP]—Disinterment of the body of a Negro convict at Sparta was ordered Monday to determine if he was beaten to death.

This development in Georgia's statewide convict camp investigation was announced at a prison commission hearing for N. A. Compton, warden of the state highway camp near Sparta where the Negro died.

Another convict from the camp escaped, came here last week and told the commission that Flam Bell was beaten to death with a hose.

The legislature's penitentiary committee investigated and reported its belief the Negro's death was due to a beating administered by a guard.

'OUTRAGEOUS ACTION'

Rep. Marvin E. Moate of Sparta told the commission at the Compton hearing the legislative committee "did not make a thorough investigation" and termed "outrageous" the committee recommendation that the warden, the guard, and Dr. E. H. Hutchens, camp physician, be suspended.

"There's going to be a coroner's inquest Tuesday, the Negro's body will be dug up to show if he was beaten to death and that should be better evidence than the word of convicts, which was the basis of the committee's report," Moate said.

AUG 25 1941

Acting Coroner H. A. Berry said the disinterment had been ordered and he would start the inquest at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

WARDEN WEEPS

The legislative committee recommended a coroner's inquest into the Negro's death and said it found evidence of beatings at the camp.

Compton, who wept while citizens and public officials of Sparta and Hancock county told the commission he was kind to convicts, truthful and honest, repeatedly asked "I want to know what I am accused of? I was here in Fulton county when the Negro died."

The death certificate said the Negro died of a sunstroke.

'YOU ASKED FOR IT'

Dr. Hutchens also asked the commission what accusation was made against him in connection with the Negro's death. Chairman Clem Rainey replied to both Hutchens and Compton "we did not call this hearing, you gentlemen asked for it, and we are glad to hold it to hear what you have to say about it."

Among those speaking for Dr. Hutchens, the Rev. R. J. Kerr, Sparta minister, said "Dr. Hutchens asked me to order some Bibles for the boys in that camp and to charge them to him."

Others testified Dr. Hutchens always displayed a deep interest in the welfare of the convicts. He has been physician for the highway camp since its establishment six years ago and was county camp physician for 20 years.

WARDENS EX-CONVICTS

The prison commission has taken no action on the suspension recommendations of the legislative investigators.

In press conference Governor Eugene Talmadge told reporters reports were true that two Georgia camp wardens were ex-convicts and added "who would know better how to treat a convict than a man who has done time in the gang?"

He said the wardens were Ed Goble of Laurens County highway camp and Teddie Goble of the Screven County camp, twin brothers. Talmadge pardoned both in a previous term and at outset of his current administration last January they both were made wardens.

"And let me tell you they are mighty good wardens," said the chief executive.

Discussing the convict camp investigation, Talmadge said he opposed both the currently permitted isolation cell and the outlawed stock as punishment for prisoners.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Death of Negro Bares Ga. Chain Gang Horrors

22 Prisoners Placed in 7½-Foot Sweat-Box, Legislative Probe Reveals; Warden Removed But No Charge Placed Against Him

(Special to the Daily Worker)

RISING FAWN, Ga., Aug. 18.—Ghastly details of the "sweat-box" death of Lewis Gordon, 40-year-old Negro prisoner in the notorious Rising Fawn chain gang camp here, were brought to the surface this week as a state legislative committee investigated the camp's administration.

AUG 25 1941

C. A. Jacobson, warden responsible for the murder of Gordon, was removed from his post but not charged with murder, even though he admitted under questioning his responsibility declaring: **"I see it was a mistake after it's over."**

GHASTLY PUNISHMENT

The murder of Lewis Gordon occurred when Jacobson ordered 22 Negro prisoners into the "sweat-box"—a seven and one-half by seven and one-half foot shack covered with tar paper and unventilated except for a pin-sized airhole at the top. Gordon was brought out in a fatal condition after having endured the "sweat-box" treatment for 8 hours.

The Georgia prison commission, obviously undisturbed by the sweat-box revelation, questioned Jacobson as to why he had not put part of the 22 Negro prisoners in another "sweat-box" nearby. He replied that the other one was for "whites only."

Jacobson said that he had ordered the 22 Negro prisoners at the Rising Fawn camp into the "sweat-box" because they had staged a sit-down strike in protest against camp conditions.

Jacobson has been a chain gang boss for 20 years. He was dismissed by the prison commission after an investigation of the Gordon death by the legislative committee which is headed by State Senator R. E. Cannon of Clayton.

AUG 25 1941

Cannon said conditions at the Rising Fawn prison camp were discovered to be "very bad."

He also revealed that the committee had found "strong evidence" that Flam Bell, a Negro prisoner at the Sparta public works camp, died as a result of "severe whippings."

The infamous Georgia prison conditions were further exposed in the legislative investigators' report by a description of conditions in the Paulding County camp "for incorrigibles." This chain-gang camp, known as "Little Alcatraz" has been the scene of desperate efforts on the part of prisoners to obtain their freedom from the inhuman conditions.

AUG 25 1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Knife Victim Is Found Dead In Service Station

Dennis Mitchell Held in Slaying Of Willie Marion

The fatal stabbing late Monday of Willie Marion, 35, of e Mitchell street address, Monday was listed by city police as the 74th instance of violence fatality among colored Atlantans for the current year.

74 Marion was found dead in the rest room of a Highland Avenue filling station, a short while after employes there had seen him waashing blood off his neck at an outside wash rack.

Arrested in conection with the fatal stabbing was Dennis Mitchell, 34, of the rear of 746 Highland Avenue, NE.

J. B. Lansford, white operator of a filling station at 870 Highland Avenue, and George Whitehead, of 35 Mangham Street, SW. and Cloude Bowden, of 330 Piedmont Avenue, porters at the business-place, told officers that they first saw Marion washing blood from the base of his neck in front of the place around six o'clock Sunday evening. They offered to call a doctor for the wounded man, but he refused to accept their suggestion and went into the rest room. Before entering, he told them that Mitchell had stabbed him. A short while later he was discovered prostrate. Dr. Hunter, white, of 770 Cypress street, pronounced him dead at the scene.

Woodrow Terrell, 21, of 295 Tanner Street, S. E., a delivery boy, told officers that Mitchell asked him to find out how Marion was faring at the filling station since he stabbed him. When arrested Mitchell yielded a knife stained with blood and said to have been used in the fatal stabbing. He was walking on Highland from Blue Ridge toward Ponce de Leon avenue when apprehended, it was reported.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Says She Became Tired Of Being Beaten By Victim

OCT 9 - 1940

Surrenders To Police Few Hours After Slaying

OCT 8 - 1940

Mrs Hattie Ballard, about 60 years old, of 60 McDonough Boulevard, SE, was in custody of police Tuesday, booked on suspision of murder.

City Detectives Preston and Newton said the woman admitted killing her 30-year-old daughter,

78 Marian, Monday evening at the McDonough Boulevard residence.

Mrs. Ballard walked into the City Police Station Monday night and surrendered to Officer H. M. Clark who is assigned to the Chief's office.

OCT 8 - 1941

Officer Clark quoted Mrs. Ballard as saying she shot her daughter in the center of the chest with a revolver. She said she had become tired of her daughter beating her. Detective Preston said Mrs. Ballard told him the younger woman threatened to kill her Monday afternoon following another argument and that during the mad dash for the pistol later in the day she beat her daughter to the weapon.

OCT 8 - 1940

The victim was rushed to Grady Hospital but was dead on arrival. Funeral plans will be announced by Pollard Funeral Home.

Radio Patrolman W. L. Green and H. J. Stallings quoted witnesses as saying the deceased had been mistreating her mother.

Mrs. Ballard told officers she had suffered recent beatings at the hands of her daughter.

The slaying Monday gave the city of Atlanta its 78th colored homicide of the year, the first reported here since September 16th.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Woman, Negro Held in Death Near Rentz

SEP 19 1941

[Special to The Telegraph]

DUBLIN, Sept. 18—Sheriff I. F. Coleman said Thursday night that Mrs. J. T. Lane and a Negro farm hand, Buck Sears, had been arrested on warrants charging them with murder in the death of Malcolm Mullis, 40, of Cadwell, member of a well known Laurens county family, who was found shot to death at the woman's home near Rentz Wednesday.

A coroner's jury Wednesday had rendered a verdict of suicide in the case.

BROTHER ENTERS CHARGE

Sheriff Coleman said the warrants were sworn out by W. H. Mullis, brother of the dead man, but the officer added he did not know on what evidence the action was taken.

R. I. Stephens, Dublin attorney, retained by Mrs. Lane shortly after she was brought to the county jail here, made application to Superior Court Judge R. Earl Camp for bond based on the coroner's jury verdict, and a hearing on the motion was set for 2 p.m. Saturday.

SEP 19 1941

Mrs. Lane, a comely young widow, testified at the coroner's hearing that Mullis came to her house Wednesday morning and threatened to shoot both her and himself if she did not go away with him. He had just returned after being gone for several months, an absence occasioned, the sheriff said, by a court writ holding him in contempt for nonpayment of alimony to his estranged wife and several outstanding misdemeanor warrants.

Mullis' body, clad only in underwear, with a pistol bullet wound through the head, was found in a bed at the Lane home. A .32-caliber pistol was in his hands, Coroner O. D. Knight said.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Woman Freed In Man's Death Near Dublin

Mrs. Lane and Negro Man Ordered Released by Judge.

SEP 23 1941

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

DUBLIN, Ga., Sept. 22.—Mrs. J. T. Lane, young Laurens county farm woman, and a Negro farm worker on the Lane place, were ordered freed today by Superior Judge R. Earl Camp following a hearing on application for bond after the two had been charged with murder in the death of Malcolm Mullis, 37-year-old member of a well known Cadwell family, who was found shot to death at the woman's home near Rentz last Wednesday.

Judge Camp held that no evidence connecting either of the two with Mullis' death had been presented, and that in view of a coroner's jury verdict of suicide in the case, there was no basis for assessing bonds.

The warrants charging Mrs. Lane and the Negro, Buck Sears, were sworn out by a brother of the dead man.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Killing Is Said Confessed by Robber Here

SEP 25 1941

Allegedly Signs Confession Describing Shooting of G. A. Baxley.

A penchant for boasting of his criminal exploits brought a murder charge yesterday against Atlanta's "paper bag bandit," Doc Moore, Negro, already under a 20-year sentence for a series of robberies.

Moore allegedly signed a confession before five officers here yesterday that he fatally shot G. A. Baxley, a Carnegie Way parking lot operator, shortly after 1 o'clock on the morning of April 3 while attempting a holdup.

He related that he saw Baxley drive up to his home, 586 Willow street, N. E., for Mrs. Baxley to alight, and then drive to his garage in the rear. As Baxley was ascending the rear steps of the house, with Mrs. Baxley standing in the lighted rear door, Moore said he called to Baxley to hold up his hands and, when the intended victim ignored the command, shot him in the back with a .38-caliber revolver.

Calvin Cole, investigator for the solicitor general's office, said Moore first boasted of the shooting to guards and fellow-inmates of the Washington county public works camp at Sandersville, where he was sent after his conviction of other holdups, in which he stuffed the loot into a paper bag.

Atlanta detectives Leo Nahlik, M. M. Coppenger, D. L. Taylor and William Holland questioned the Negro with Cole.

The case will be considered today by the Fulton grand jury.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

DeKalb Convict Guard To Be Tried in Slaying

Roy Rice, DeKalb county convict guard indicted in the slaying of a Negro convict guard, Levester Brought [illegible] a row over a delay in serving supper at the county camp, will be tried during a special term of DeKalb superior court beginning Monday.

Rice's case is scheduled for the second week, when criminal cases will be tried. Civil cases are on the calendar for next week, and Judge James C. Davis will preside over the entire session. Most of the criminal trials will be routine liquor and burglary cases, officials said.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Man Sought In Bold Slaying Of Woman

OCT 21 1941

A wide search was underway Monday for Albert Foster, about 35 years old, of 326 Houston St., NE., in connection with the bold daylight slaying of his alleged commonlaw wife, Miss Viola Head, 35, of the same address.

Bullets fired from an automatic felled the woman Monday morning around 11:15 o'clock at 332 Houston Street, NE, policemen reported.

Radio Patrolmen C. E. Hale and I. L. Hughes said several shots were fired, two of them stricking the woman in the stomach

80

and right arm. The officers reported finding two empty cartridges on the floor of a drug store located at 332 Houston Street.

Quoting witnesses to the slaying, the offices said the suspect went to the victim's room and ordered her downstairs and then grabber her and pulled her down the stairs when she asked for time to put her shoes on her feet. Continuing, the officers said the woman was hustled across the street and fired on.

OCT 21 1941

She was reported shot once while in the street and the second time when she ran into the drugstore.

Miss Head was rushed to Grady Hospital in a Hill and Dunbar ambulance but was dead on arrival.

Witnesses told officers the man and woman had been living together several years.

Patrolmen Hale and Hughes said they sought Foster at his mother's home o Old Wheat St. but were unable to locate him there.

Miss Head's death gave Atlanta its 80th colored slaying of the year.

Witnesses to the slaying were listed by the officers as Dr. George Brooks, white, druggist at 332 Houston Street, NE.; Mrs. Martha Williams, 326 Houston Street NE, and Willie Alexander, 326 Houston Street NE.

City Detectives Taylor and Holland were assigned to the case.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Pleads Guilty To Manslaughter, Gets 8 To 12-Year Term

OCT 21 1941

Dennis Mitchell, 34, of rear-746 Highland Avenue, NE, drew a prison sentence of 8 to 12 years Monday morning in a Fulton Superior Court after pleading guilty to a manslaughter charge in connection with the fatal knifing last month of Willie Marion, 35, of a Mitchell Street address.

A Fulton grand jury voted a murder indictment against Mitchell after witnesses testified Marion named Mitchell as his assailant. The witnesses said the victim was found dead in the rest room of a Highland Avenue service station shortly after he was seen to enter. Employees of the service station said they saw Marion washing blood from his neck.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Man Is Held For Shooting

OCT 20 1941

D. R. Sisk, 34, employe of a Macon lumber firm, will be arraigned today in connection with the murder of a Negro man at Crumps Park early Sunday morning.

OCT 20 1941

Sisk voluntarily appeared in the sheriff's office here following the shooting. It is reported that he had made the statement that the Negro was armed and that he had made remarks which "couldn't be taken."

A preliminary investigation was made by County Police O. R. Stokes and Walter Waldon and Coroner L. H. Chapman made his investigation yesterday for the hearing today.

Sisk was held in county jail here on an open charge.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

JEALOUSY SEEN AS CAUSE OF 81ST SLAYING

OCT 27 1941

Extreme jealousy probably was the cause for the death Saturday evening around eight o'clock of Charley Singleton, 27, of 137 Hilliard Street, N. E., Apartment 387, on Pratt Street near Decatur St.

According to an eyewitness, Jim Akers, 52, whose address is given both at 420 Connally Street, S. E. and on Pratt Street, where he works at the Atlantic Ice Garage, he came to the gate to let out a truck when he saw the victim and a woman walking up the street, trailed by another Negro.

81

Upon nearing the couple, the garage worker reportedly told Radio Patrolmen H. A. Beatty and H. R. McCurley, the man behind fired several times after being begged by the woman who called him "Frank," not to kill her. The shots, however, were aimed at Singleton, who was pronounced dead on arrival at the colored clinic at Grady to which he was rushed.

The bullets took effect in the back of the victim's head, the resultant wounds proving fatal. The body was turned over to the Hanley Company.

Detectives Preston and Newton, assigned to further investigation of the murder, colored Atlanta's eighty-first homicide of the year, are looking for a suspect described to them as being about 5-5 in height 165 pounds in weight, dark, wearing dark clothes, and hatless.

The woman, whose identity is also unestablished, was described as being about 5-6 in height, 106 in weight, and slim of build.

OCT 27 1941

The detectives are running down every available clue and it is understood some information is being sought through intimate acquaintances of the assailant.

William Marlowe, 25, of 539 Mary Street, was hit on the head and wounded badly Sunday evening around six o'clock, allegedly by one Paul Jones, 30, of the same address, after the latter struck the victim who acted as peacemaker when Jones was whipping his (Jones') wife, Marlowe's sister-in-law.

Emergency clinic reports at Grady disclosed Marlowe incurred a possible skull fracture. Radio Patrolmen Caldwell and Sims answered the call but Detectives Preston and Newton are running down the case for a final disposition.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

McGill Column 'Advice' Echoes In Negro Trial

Heavier Sentences Being Given by Juries, Records Show.

By WILLARD COPE.

As a repercussion of Ralph McGill's recent column insisting upon stiffer penalties in Negro murder cases, the defense in a slaying trial yesterday required full and formal arraignment, an ancient and colorful proceeding which quickly brought a crowd of lawyers and officials to Superior Judge Walter C. Hendrix's courtroom.

Asserting that the publication was causing juries to view such charges more seriously, Wilbur Nall, attorney for John W. (Bud) Leonard, Negro on trial, sought from the judge inclusion of an additional question, put to each juror, as to whether he had been influenced by the news and editorial articles. This was not permitted.

OCT 1 1941

Records showed that where formerly sentences of one to two years have been the usual penalties, juries in the past few days have been much more severe. In three murder cases tried this week the sentences were, respectively, 11 years, 20 years and life.

Already, according to Detective C. L. Taylor, of the homicide squad, who was in court as a witness against Leonard, the number of Negro stabbings has lessened.

"The word has gone out," he declared, significantly. "It used to be said a Negro would rather face a Negro murder charge than be caught in the bug racket."

Unusual Procedure.

Attorney William Schley Howard, an old hand in the formalities of court procedure, went back to his experience as solicitor general of the Stone Mountain circuit in order to conduct the formal arraignment. He was associated in the prosecution with Judge J. R. Parham, assistant solicitor general.

Four panels of prospective jurors were required to stand and submit en masse to questioning and visual examination by the defense. Afterward, each talesman was asked three statutory questions by Attorney Howard, who then, impressively, would announce either "competent" or "excused for cause." If the talesman proved competent, Howard then would intone the hoary formula:

"Prisoner, look upon the juror. Juror, look upon the prisoner."

Usually Omitted.

Both prosecution and defense would go into separate huddles, and presently the talesman would be accepted or excused.

It was one of very few times the veteran "Judge" Charles Hartsfield and W. H. Spratlin, deputy court clerks, said that the long formality had been insisted on in superior court here. It is usually omitted in the interest of speed. Courts in more rural sections experience it more frequently.

OCT 17 1941

Leonard is charged with stabbing to death a drinking companion, John Howard, in a Larkin street speakeasy August 29. The trial will be completed today.

Editorial Praised.

Figures made public yesterday by Captain J. D. Ragsdale, of the County Identification Bureau, showed that in 58 Negro murder cases tried in the 12 months ending October 1 there were 16 not guilty verdicts, no death sentences, seven life sentences and 35 impositions of minor terms of imprisonment.

OCT 17 1941

Defendants who received much more severe penalties this week were Ruby Williams, who was given a life sentence; Ollie B. James, 20 years, and Annie Lee Pressley, 11 years.

The "One Word More" column in The Constitution, written by Ralph McGill, calling for a more serious view of Negro slayings, drew praise from the Fulton grand jury in a special presentment returned Tuesday.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
October 15, 1941

Legislative 'Dabblers' In Pardons Hit by Jury

Fulton Body Especially Commends The Journal for Exposure of Abuses

Members of the Georgia General Assembly who allegedly dabble in the pardon racket were taken to task by the Fulton County grand jury.

In special resolutions returned Tuesday afternoon, the grand jury held that the most undeserving class of people are being pardoned and paroled and urged a general investigation by every grand jury in the state.

The presentments added:

"We wish to commend the press of Georgia and especially The Atlanta Journal for exposing the evils of the pardon racket."

In another resolution, the grand jury expressed alarm at the number of murders in Fulton County and pointed out that 90 per cent of the homicides are committed by Negroes.

Restrictive Power

The pardon resolution declared "many suggestions have been made as a remedy for curbing promiscuous and undeserved pardons. The Constitution of Georgia points the way if our Legislature will follow the mandate of the Constitution.

"The constitutional authority granting the Governor the right to issue pardons specifically provides that such pardons shall be granted subject to the rules prescribed. The Legislature, having the power to prescribe these rules, could and should pass restrictive legislation."

The resolution added that no member of the Assembly should be directly or indirectly concerned with a pardon, receive a fee either directly or indirectly for using his influence to obtain a pardon for someone, and then adds this point:

"The very fact that members of the Legislature can practice pardon law and use their influence as a member of the Legislature has much to do with the granting of promiscuous pardons."

"Racketeers Favored"

Pointing out that 42 grand juries throughout Georgia have condemned the pardon racket, the Fulton grand jury quoted from the two latest—the Taylor and Franklin County grand juries—and declared: "It is our opinion that the sentiment being created by the action of the grand juries throughout the state will ultimately bring about a far-reaching reform in the pardon and parole systems."

Declaring that habitual criminals and racketeers are the least worthy of clemency consideration, the grand jury added, "However, the fact remains that these racketeers are the favored pets, as the record will show."

"The time has come," the report said, "when the pardon racket must be destroyed and the best way to destroy it is through an aroused public opinion."

The subject of pardons was also considered in the brief resolution on murders. It said in part:

"Hardly a day passes but some notorious 'bug' operator is released on pardon or parole. Criminals of various types are arrested and put away for a term of months or years. Paroles and pardons too often put them back on the streets within a few weeks or months."

The resolutions were signed by Wiley L. Moore, foreman, and John C. Townley, secretary.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
NOV 8

Two Negroes Get Chair, Life For Murder

Action Follows Plea for Stiffer Sentences in Such Cases

A Negro was given a mandatory death penalty and another Negro received a life sentence yesterday in criminal divisions of Fulton county superior court, on murder charges involving the slaying of other Negroes.

The sentences followed recent agitation, including grand jury presentments urging "stiffer" sentences for Negro murderers and commending a column by Ralph McGill, executive editor of The Constitution, in which he wrote that one reason for Atlanta's high crime rate was the meting out of light sentences with the attitude of "it's just another Negro murder."

One Negro was Eddie Green, charged with the murder of another Negro, Curtis Barber, last June 1. Green, who said that he and Barber had quarreled over Green's wife, shot Barber to death. At the time, Barber was lying on a studio couch at his home on Collier street. Judge A. L. Etheridge, who heard the case, will set a date for Green's electrocution Friday. The prosecutor was Judge W. B. Parham, assistant solicitor general.

In the other case, before Judge Walter Hendrix, William Baker was charged with stabbing Clarence Clark to death. His consent plea carried a sentence of life imprisonment. The jury later brought in a verdict of guilty.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia
NOV 8 1941

Felix Wells, Dublin Negro, Given Life in Wife Slaying

[Special to The Telegraph]

DUBLIN, Nov. 6—Relix Wells, on trial in Superior court here since Monday as an accessory before the fact in the murder of his wife, Thursday was found guilty by a jury that recommended hercy, and Presiding Judge R. Earl Camp sentenced him to life imprisonment. Judge Camp also placed a life sentence on Freddie Hooks, who entered a plea of guilty to being the actual slayer.

Wells' counsel did not indicate immediately whether a new trial would be sought.

The jury deliberating the Wells case rendered its verdict shortly after court reconvened for Thursday's session. It received the case at 6:30 o'clock Wednesday, and after two hours deliberation without reaching a verdict was ordered to bed for the night.

Trial of Wells, widely-known Dublin Negro grocer, taxicab operator, poolroom and dance hall proprietor; was one of the hardest-fought cases in the annals of local courts. Two and a half days were required by the state, represented by Solicitor General J. Eugene Cook, to present its witnesses, and clashes were frequent as Defense Attorneys Lester F. Watson and W. W. Larsen sought to prevent admission of testimony.

The two Negroes were charged with the woman's death in a plot to collect insurance on her life. Hooks, the confessed slayer, testified in the Wells trial that he was promised $500 by the woman's husband to lure her to a lonely spot near here and shoot her to death. Her bullet-riddled body was found in her automobile on a downtown street here the night of August 22, 1940.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
October 26, 1941

THEY WROTE TO THE JOURNAL

Magazines On Sex And Crime Deplored

Editor of The Knoxville Journal:

A Knoxville physician has recently published an article deploring the increasing homicide rate among our city's Negro population. Two possible causes of such crime waves among various classes of our country's population which he cites are—the present war hysteria and bad home environment. I suggest still another cause of some types of homicidal crime, namely, reading matter.

The recent Betty Strieff murder case uncovered the crime career of a Negro who acknowledged the habit of reading "True Detective" fiction. And his case is by no means exceptional for the degenerate killer of either race. The fact that the contents of such magazines may be delved from courtroom files by no means lessens their danger for the deficiently conditioned.

In a public school system like our own, the English classroom can best be the medium of inculcating more wholesome reading tastes in the minds of the young. The Bible, classical literature, and current event periodicals can be so taught as to suggest permanent literary tastes for the pupils. It is safe to say that those so trained will form no predilection for the crime and sex magazines, "True" and otherwise, displayed on our newsstands.

BROOKS WOODWARD.
407 West Vine Avenue.

#33-1941

GEORGIA

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Young Wife Is Held In Knife Death Of Mate

SEP 25 1941

Mrs. Reba Dean Says Killing Was an Accident

A man who reportedly made it a habit to fence with his wife, using butcher knives, was dead Monday and his mate booked on suspicion of murder.

The victim, James Dean, 26 of 989 Ashby Terrace, N. W., was pronounced dead on arrival at Grady hospital around 9 A. M. Monday. He had been stabbed in the groin with a butcher knife around 8:33 A. M. Monday.

SEP 25 1941

Dean's wife, Reba, 26, told police investigators that she and her husband were fencing with butcher knives in the kitchen of Mrs. Eugene Cronheim at 70 Maddox Drive, NE, when he failed to fend off a blow that launched in his groin. She said that they had been fencing in this fashion for a long period of time and that they had neither quarreled nor had any intoxicating liquor. Mrs. Cronheim told officers that the two had never quarreled to her knowledge.

The knives were turned in to police headquarters while Mrs. Reba Dean was held on a charge of suspicion.

Dean's death was marked up at police station as a homicide, the 94th colored violence fatality of the year.

Hold Inquest Today For Beheaded Postman

An inquest is slated at 2 o'clock this afternoon for Theodore Thomas, Atlanta postman, of 946 Wylie Street, SW, whose beheaded body was discovered on railroad tracks near Marietta and Thurmond streets Sunday afternoon.

The tentative hour for the inquest was set by Coroner Mrs. Paul Donehoo, who spent most of Monday, along with city police, attempting to piece together shreds of evidence and gather witnesses to determine if Thomas came to his death as the result of suicidal action or by foul play.

Thomas, a prominent churchman and resident of the Reynoldstown area was discovered dead, his body lying on the outside of and at right angles to a rail of tracks over which runs most of Atlanta's northern train traffic and the head inside the rails. A clean cut had been affected. No marks of violence were on the body, according to David T. Howard attaches J. T. Lawson and Milton Grant who picked up and embalmed the bidy

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Negro Dies From Wounds

JAN 26 1941

Coroner Lester H. Chapman will conduct an inquest at 11 a.m. today in the death of Curtis Smith, 26, Negro of Chappell street, who died of gunshot wounds early yesterday. The inquest will be held in the Central City Funeral home.

County officers said Frank McCoy, next-door neighbor of Smith is being held in the county jail pending completion of the investigation.

JAN 26 1941

Arresting officers said McCoy is accused of firing on Smith when the pair resumed an argument which started Friday night.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

FOUR ARRESTED AS RESULT OF FATAL BEATING

AUG 30 1941

Report All Admit Fight, but Deny Any Robbery.

Four men, two of them Negroes, were in custody of Warren avenue police last night as a result of the fatal beating early yesterday of John Nazimek, 28 years old, 2019 Iowa street, a punch press operator. Nazimek was beaten when he went to the aid of an out of town truck driver who was being set upon by the four men in front of a tavern at 2359 Lake street.

AUG 30 1941

Those held are James Cotromanes, 40 years old, bartender in the tavern; Phillip Pappadakis, 45, cook in the place; Robert Manley, 39, of 1953 Maypole avenue, and Oliver Street, 20, of 2259 Lake street, the latter two Negroes. Capt. Walter McGloon said the four admitted beating Nazimek and Paul Hilliard, 38, of Sioux City, Ia., the truck driver.

Robbed, He Charges.

Hilliard told Policemen James O'Keefe and Bernard Leonard that he was set upon by the four men and robbed of $11 after he left the tavern. Nazimek saw the fight, rushed to the aid of Hilliard, and was beaten unconscious.

Police said the unconscious Nazimek and Hilliard were taken to county hospital for treatment but that an intern refused admittance to Nazimek and told police to take him back to the station. However, he was finally admitted. He died a short time later.

AUG 30 1941

Doctor Orders Investigation.

Dr. Ole E. Nelson of the hospital staff ordered an investigation. Hilliard, after being treated, left for Sioux City. He was later notified to attend the inquest today.

Policemen O'Keefe and Leonard said that Cotromanes and Pappadakis declared that the fight started after Hilliard attempted to get into the tavern as they were closing the place.

They denied they had robbed him. Manley, according to police records, was involved in a fatal shooting several months ago but was freed when the grand jury did not vote a true bill against him.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

Negro Wildcatters Fuss; 1 Is Dead, 1 Hurt, 1 Jailed

NOV 13 1941

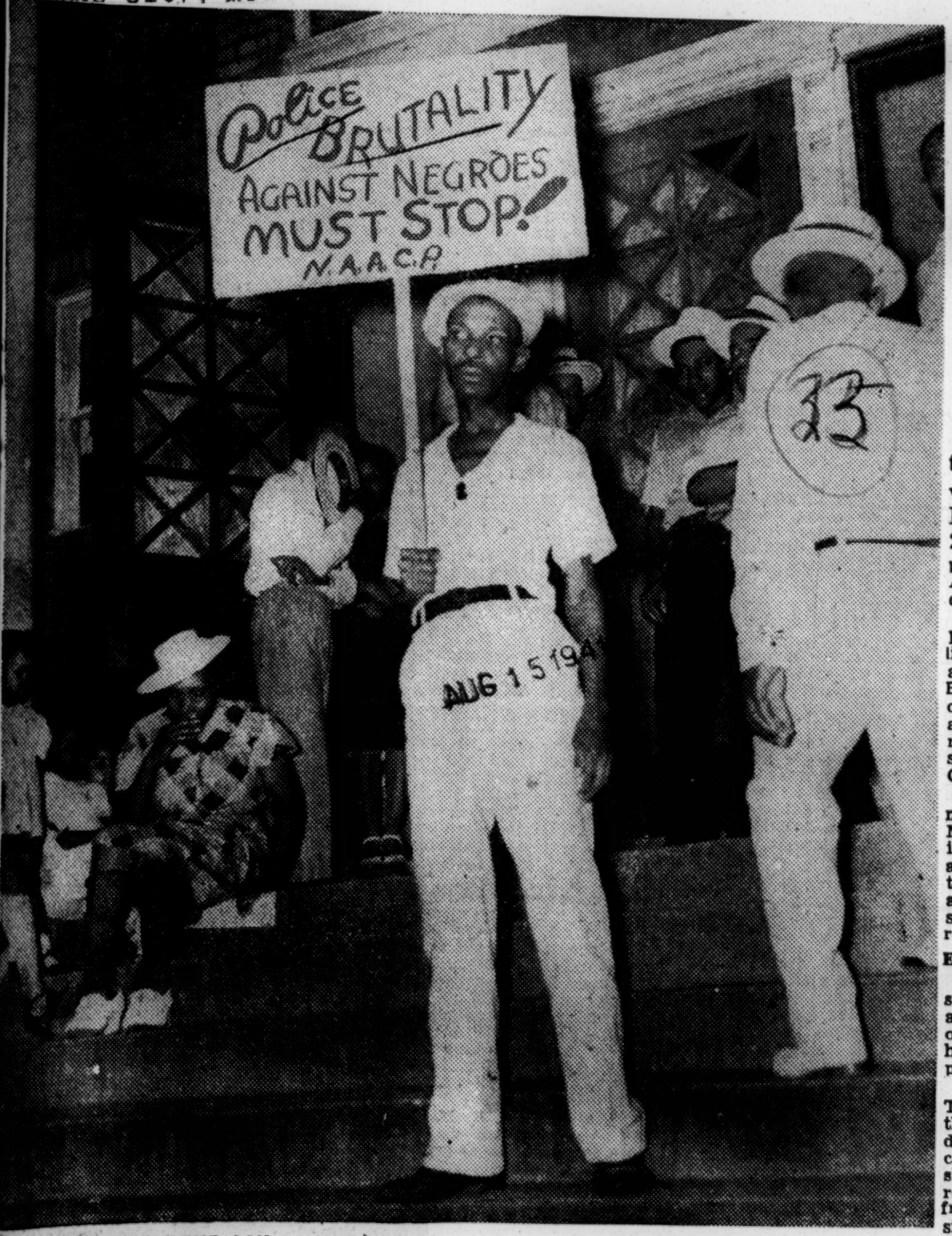
Harrisburg, Ill., Nov. 12 (AP).—One Negro is dead, another wounded and a third held without charges in the county jail here today after a fracas at a wildcat oil well near Eldorado late Sunday. Sheriff T. J. Gram said the principals were associated in oil exploration activities and his investigation showed the shooting climaxed an argument. In jail is Harvey Scott, 45, who Sheriff Gram said admitted shooting O. L. Faulkner, about 35, and L. H. Hou[illegible]th of Chicago. Faulkner was killed.

NOV 13 1941

33-1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

KANSAS



POLICE BRUTALITY MUST GO" — Two signs reading, "Police Brutality Against Negroes Must Stop," were carried up and down in front of the Jamison Temple C.M.E. church, Monday night, August 4, while the N.A.A.C.P. protest mass meeting was being held in protest against the slaying of Harrison J. Ware by Police Officers Charles LaBaugh and Dewey Ellis.

AUG 15 1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Police Commissioners Take Action Following N.A.A.C.P. Mass Meeting

Officer Chas. LaBaugh, Who Killed Negro, Dropped Pending Investigation; Brutality Campaign Launched

Charles LaBaugh, one of the two white patrolmen involved in the slaying of Harrison J. Ware on July 26, was suspended from the police force Wednesday afternoon, August 6, by the board of police commissioners.

AUG 15 1941

The suspension of LaBaugh followed hearings held before the police board Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons in the office of Chief L. B. Reed in the presence of police officials, commanding officers from all of the city's police stations and representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The hearing was prompted by a mass meeting held by Negro Citizens Monday night, August 4, at the Jamison Temple C. M. E. church where a resolution was adopted calling for the dismissal of Officers Labaugh and Dewey Ellis both of whom shot Ware during the course of a raid on the Autumn Leaf Club.

ELLIS STILL ON FORCE

The status of Ellis remains unsettled. He will remain on the force as patrolman until further development of the evidence against him, according to Edgar Shook president of the police board.

Following the first hearing on Tuesday afternoon at which time the N.A.A.C.P. presented evidence to the board supporting the contention that LaBaugh and Ellis should be fired, the police board removed both Ellis and LaBaugh from the vice squad. Ellis was assigned to the police jail.

After further evidence had been heard on Wednesday, the board decided that the evidence against LaBaugh was strong enough to suspend him but was unwilling to suspend Ellis on the evidence presented so far.

Ellis attended both the hearing Tuesday and the one Wednesday but LaBaugh was not present at either. Ellis reported to the board that LaBaugh was confined to the Research hospital where he is said to be suffering from a brain concussion as a result of his fight with Ware on the night of the slaying.

NOT JUDGING LaBAUGH

In announcing the suspension of LaBaugh, "We in no sense are judging LaBaugh's case until such time as we have heard the evidence and LaBaugh has testified."

The police board president said that written charges will be made against LeBaugh, who will be given a formal hearing before the board as provided in the state police act, Shook said.

The hearings both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons were conducted much in the fashion of a courtroom trial.

Following the publication in the daily press Tuesday morning of the mass meeting held Monday night, Mr. Shook called Carl R. Johnson president of the N. A. A. C. P. branch and asked him to bring a group of witnesses of the slaying to a hearing to begin at 2 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.

Members of the N.A.A.C.P. who went to the hearing beside Mr. Johnson were the Rev. D. A. Holmes pastor of the Paseo Baptist church; Dr. C. R. Humbert, physician; Dr. J. H. Lewis, dentist; Earl D. Thomas, principal of the R. T. Coles junior and vocational school; L. A. Knox, attorneys. James H. Herbert, attorney; Forest Smith, executive secretary of the Paseo branch Y. M.C.A.; Miss Lucile Bluford, The Call; the Rev. Alton Wright, superintendent of the Colored Rescue Mission and Miss Thelma Toland.

All of the police commissioners, LaBaugh and Ware scuffed on the Chief Reed, the captains and lietenants from all the police stations and Sergeants Leon Jordan and Emmett Walls were present.

THE LAW SUPREME

Mr. Shook opened the hearing by saying that there is only one law in Kansas City and that the same law applies to all races. "As far as I am concerned," he said, "and as long as I am a member of this board, the law is going to be supreme, but by the same token,

there is going to be only one law."

Mr. Shook introduced Mr. Johnson who told the commissioners of the injustices, brutality and insults that Negro people have suffered at the hands of police officers. He then presented three witnesses to the slaying of Harrison Ware and asked the witnesses to tell the commissioners the story of the slaying.

The witnesses questioned by Mr. Johnson were George Conway, 1043 the Paseo; Stanley Carroll, 1226 Woodland avenue; John Caesar, 1005 Brooklyn avenue.

All three told how LaBaugh entered the club brandishing his revolver and began immediately to curse and beat Negroes in the club. He slapped and struck Harrison Ware without provocation, they said, and knocked him from one side of the room to the other before Ware picked up a pool ball and attempted to defend himself.

Ware was shot three times, one shot striking him directly in the back, another in the groin and the other in the left hip.

The witnesses said that two of the shots were fired by Ellis and the other by LaBaugh.

After the witnesses had told their story, they were asked questions by Mr. Shook, and other members of the police board and by Chief Reed.

ELLIS DENIES EVERYTHING

Ellis attended Tuesday's hearing but was not called upon to testify At the Wednesday afternoon hearing, Ellis made his statement, saying that he shot Ware after he saw Ware touch the gun of LaBaugh as floor of the club.

He told the commissioners that he did not hear LaBaugh curse and swear at the Negroes in the club and that he did not see LaBaugh strike any of the men. He denied that LaBaugh called for him to shoot Ware. He admitted, that LaBaugh called for help and that he, Ellis, told him that he couldn't help him because he was afraid to turn his back on the crowd.

Four Negro witnesses were brought in to testify in behalf of Ellis but they told substantially the same story that had been told by the witnesses Tuesday afternoon.

Wednesday's witnesses were questioned by Mr. Shook and cross-examined by James H. Herbert, attorney and president of the Negro Chamber of Commerce.

They were Waston Watts, 35, 1325 Highland avenue; James Jones, 43, 3930 Troost avenue, a janitor; Sam Davis, 35, 1305 Valentine Road, and Elmer London, 40, 2222 Olive street.

All of them said that Officer LaBaugh beat and cursed the Negroes but that they did not see Ellis abuse anyone until he shot Ware.

Two of the witnesses said that they did not see the altercation between LaBaugh and Ware because they hid on the floor and behind the crowd when the trouble started.

AUG 15 1941

TO GRAND JURY

Following Wednesday's hearing, the members of the police board retired from the room and came back in about 30 minutes with the announcement that by unanimous vote, LaBaugh would be suspended pending the outcome of an investigation of his case.

In the meantime, plans are going ahead for the presentation of the Ware slaying to the grand jury which Judge Paul A. Buzard will call soon.

Mr. Shook said that the police board will not be guided by the grand jury action. Mr. Johnson asked the board president after Tuesday's hearing whether the police board would "await the grand jury's action and be guided by it?"

Mr. Smook answered, "If the board finds the patrolmen overstepped their power they will be punished regardless of grand jury action."

Members of the police board who attended the hearings both Tuesday and Wednesday were Mr. Shook, president; Milton B. Schweiger, F. P. Logan Jr., and Harry M. Gambrel.

Shook, Schweiger and Logan were appointed to the board by Governor Lloyd C. Stark when the police department went under state control in 1939. Gambrel was appointed to the board only a few weeks ago by Governor Forrest C. Donnell. Mayor John B. Gage, who by virtue of his office also serves as a member of the police board, was not present at the hearings.

Representatives of the N.A.A.C.P. who attended the Wednesday hearing were James H. Herbert, the Rev. D. A. Holmes and Lucile Bluford.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

PADUCAH MAN KILLS YOUNG SON AND NEGRO

NOV 3 1941

Boy Slain Accidentally, Will McGinnis Tells Police

Special to The Commercial Appeal

PADUCAH, Ky., Oct. 31.—The accidental slaying of his 13-year-old son and the fatal wounding of a negro, who, he claimed, was chasing him with a gun or ax, were confessed Friday afternoon by Will McGinnis, 60, according to Chief of Police W. E. Bryant.

The boy, R. V. McGinnis, was killed almost instantly by a blast from a shotgun, which struck him in his chest. The negro, Morris Lewis, 41, died at a hospital Friday morning from a gunshot wound in the side.

The shooting occured about 12:30 o'clock Friday morning near the McGinnis home. Police first were told that Lewis shot the boy, and that McGinnis then shot the negro, but after questioning by police he changed his story.

McGinnis said that Lewis, who apparently had been drinking, came to his house shortly after midnight. When McGinnis answered the knock at the door, according to his story, Lewis struck him with what he thought was a shotgun or an ax.

McGinnis then went to the home of his daughter nearby and got his shotgun. Returning home, he told police, he met Lewis again, and started to run. Hearing his son cry that the negro was close behind him, McGinnis turned and fired a shot which struck the boy, Chief Bryant quoted him as saying.

When Lewis continued to advance on him, McGinnis added he fired at him, the shot striking him in the s

NOV 1 1941

Young McGinnis is survived by his parents; two brothers, Walter McGinnis of Camp Shelby, Miss., and George McGinnis of Paducah, three sisters, Mrs. Polly Sutton, Mrs. Ida Mae Walker, and Miss Betty McGinnis, all of Paducah.

33-1941

LOUISIANA

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

MICHIGAN HIGH COURT REFUSES TO INTERFERE

Man Charged With Killing Officer In 1930 Loses Immunity Fight

DETROIT — When the Michigan supreme court refused Friday, to intervene, the last hope of Wilmer Smith, alias John Saunders, 38, to avoid returning to New Orleans to face a murder charge, went overboard.

Recorder's Judge W. McKay Skillman, at a hearing last Thursday on a writ of habeas corpus, gave the attorneys for Smith until Friday morning to get a writ from the State high court for a stay of extradition to permit a review of the case.

Smith faces a charge of murdering a traffic policeman in New Orleans in 1930. He had been living in Detroit since that time.

Arrested several weeks ago by Detective Lieut, Wallace Williams and Detective Albert Pitts, a determined fight had been made to keep Smith in Detroit. His co-workers at the Dodge plant where he had been employed for a number of years, subscribed $150 for his defense. The Detroit branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also took an active part in the defense.

Smith was granted a hearing by Former Governor Luren D. Dickinson, who, after hearing the evidence, signed the extradition papers. However, before the two officers from New Orleans could start South with their prisoner, the attorneys for Smith obtained a writ of habeas corpus in Recorder's court.

A hearing on this writ was held by Judge Skillman last Wednesday. Smith's attorneys charged that their client had not been given a fair hearing by the Governor and that he was being illegally "railroaded" back to Louisiana without the protection of his legal rights as a citizen of Michigan where he has lived for the past 10 years.

Judge Skillman adjourned the case for a day for the defense attorneys to produce witnesses to prove beyond a doubt that Smith was living in Detroit at the time of the shooting of the policeman. These witnesses failed to testify that Smith had been here at the time.

Another continuance was granted by Skillman Thursday, giving the attorneys until the following morning to obtain a writ from the state high court. When the high court refused to grant a writ, the final hope for Smith went away, and the officers from Louisiana who had been here since Dec. 26, took their prisoner back to New Orleans to face the 10-year-old murder charge.

Louisiana officers said Smith had shot the traffic policeman when the officer stopped the car in which Smith was riding. The prisoner was arrested when Detroit officers were told that he was wanted in New Orleans on a murder charge. He had married since coming to Detroit. His wife was in court at each hearing.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

2 LILY-WHITE JURY VERDICTS ARE SET ASIDE

Ruling Recognized Only After Negroes Serve On Trial Body

DEC 6 1941

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The refusal of the United States Supreme court to reverse the upholding of a lower court's decision by the Louisiana state supreme court has spelled definite doom for Hugh Pierre, the crippled, Edgar, La., farmer, who in protecting himself and family against ganster tactics of St. John the Baptist Parish sheriffs, shot and killed a deputy sheriff.

Pierre was accused of having taken a plow belonging to a white farmer near his farm, and when the deputy in the company of the alleged owners of the missing plow attempted to mobbishly assault him, he shot and killed the deputy.

Pierre was tried and convicted of murder and sentenced to pay with his life. Maurice Woulff, local attorney, took up Pierre's case and after carrying it to the United States Supreme court, won a new trial on the grounds that he had not been tried farily because Negroes in the Parish had been systematically kept off the jury and out of the jury panel.

Pierre was then tried the second time, but with a small percentage of Negroes in the jury panel. The court was stunned over the fact that many of the white jurymen could not even read or write their names.

DEC 6 1941

Woulff pleaded for a new trial on the bases that there were such small percentage of Negroes on the jury and in the jury panel that the outcome of the case was influenced by the predomination of white jurymen.

The Louisiana Supreme court ordered a new trial and Pierre, once more, faced Louisiana justice. This time he was re-indicted, tried and convicted and re-sentenced to pay the death penalty. His counsel appealed to the state high court, who upheld the lower court decision, and a few days ago the United States Supreme court upheld the action of the state court by refusing to re-consider the case.

Hugh Pierre must die, but during the course of his fight against southern injustice hundreds of Negroes have been called to jury service, not only in Louisiana, but throughout the South. In many back-wood parishes in the state Negroes serve on petit and grand juries.

A movement is in the making for a monument to be erected to Hugh Pierre, as a token of honor to his contribution to the allowance of Negroes to participate in the judicial branch of the state government.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Seek Funds To Fight Death Penalty Of Invalid Who Killed Wife's Annoyer

BATON ROUGE, La.—The executive board of the Baton Rouge branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, at a special meeting Wednesday, Jan. 22, voted to aid Clarence Smith, who has been charged with the murder of Edward Koehler, white.

Atty. E. R. Stoker and Judge R. F. Walker have been appointed by the court to defend Smith.

According to reports, Koehler entered Smith's home and urged Ethel Johnson, Smith's common-law wife, to go riding with him. Smith lay sick in bed at the time. Miss Johnson induced the white man to leave the premises.

FEB 8 1941

But Koehler returned a half hour later and demanded that the woman go for a ride with him. Smith, hearing the commotion, got out of bed to defend Miss Johnson. In the scuffle that followed, Smith, in a weakened condition, was no match for the whiskey-soused Koehler Smith drew his knife and stabbed Koehler several times. Koehler later died in front of a saloon.

Smith was sentenced to hang. An appeal made by the defense was granted by the state supreme court.

The N.A.A.C.P. is appealing to the public to contribute to a fund which will be used to help defray the expense of another trial.

Contributions may be made to Horatio C. Thompson, secretary of Baton Rouge branch of the association, or to Messrs. Willie Henderson, W. W. Winnbush, Mack Tinsley, L. W. Wallace, Mrs. Delphine Dupuy, and Dr. J. A. Bacoats.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SEEK TO PUNISH COP FOR KILLING

FEB 8 1941

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 6—Public indignation reached a new high this week as State and city officials were flooded with letters and telegrams urging that a probe be pushed into the slaying of Willmer Smith by a police officer an hour after he was brought here to answer charges of killing a traffic officer ten years ago.

Smith was shot in the neck by Detective William Grosch shortly after he was taken off the train that brought him from Detroit. According to the policeman's version Smith was shot during a scuffle while enroute to Zachery in search of the gun used in the ten-year-old slaying. The prisoner was handcuffed at the time.

The local branch of the NAACP and the New Orleans Press Club have asked State and city officials to suspend Detectives Grosch during the course of the investigation.

District Attorney John E. Fleury, of Jefferson Parish where the shooting took place, has promised to make a full investigation and report his findings to the Grand Jury.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

Armless, Legless Body Is Removed from Red River

JUL 12 1941

(Special to The Times-Picayune).

Alexandria, La., July 20.—The body of a headless, armless and legless white man was taken from Red river after being seen by four boys as it floated toward the Boyce bridge. The legs were cut off just below the knees.

The boys, R. H. and James Simmons and Allen and Wilbur Payne, said the attention was attracted by shining brass buckles on overalls the man was wearing. R. H. Simmons towed the body to the Grant parish side of the river.

Gillis Bowen, Grant parish sheriff, said there was a wallet in the man's pocket with several papers, but the papers were not legible.

afro-American
Baltimore, Marylan

It's Not a Racial Matter

FEB 22 1941

EDITORIAL

Chief Judge Samuel K. Dennis, in sentencing a man who appealed from a one-year jail term, given on assault charges, to four years, instead, remarked in the criminal court this week that it looked as if "one-half of the colored people in Baltimore are trying to kill the other half," and added that "this shooting, cutting and stabbing has got to stop."

We have no objection to cutting down the number of assaults in Baltimore. We are perfectly satisfied if drastic penalties are meted out to these offenders, provided, of course, that, under the law the same punishment is inflicted on both colored and white law-breakers.

We haven't found any crimes in this category which weren't committed by both races and by the same elements of both races. If the proportion of assaults among colored people is larger, it is due to the fact that the proportion of that group among colored people is larger than it is among whites.

FEB 22 1941

Judge Dennis knows as well as we do that crime follows the wage line, and that those who have employment, proper housing, food, clothing and recreation, are not the people who come before him in the courts.

Half the colored people in Baltimore are not jobless and lacking in proper environmental conditions, so Judge Dennis's statement that half the colored people are trying to kill the other half seems to us an exaggeration that we don't think he intended to make.

Further than that, this crime thing is not a racial issue. Has Judge Dennis ever heard of two men named Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini?

If he hasn't, we'd like to know why Congress appropriated several billions of dollars last week so that we'll all be in this business of fighting, cutting and stabbing some time within the near future.

afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

NAACP Will Probe Slaying

BALTIMORE

Lawrence Reed, 18, of 1030 N. Eutaw Street, former pupil at Elementary School No. 131, was shot to death early Thursday morning in the 1600 block of Latrobe Street, by a quick-trigger police officer in search of out-of-town hold-up men.

The officer, Frank Ruzek, 40, of 4604 Bayonne Avenue, was released on his own recognizance pending a hearing in Central police court, under a writ of habeas corpus issued by Judge Edwin T. Dickerson of the Supreme Bench.

AUG 9 1941

A few hours ofter the youth's parents learned of his tragic death, they contacted the local NAACP, and Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, president, began an immediate investigation.

Reports Conflict

AFRO reporters investigating the shooting heard conflicting versions. Capt. Joseph Itzel commanding officer of Central police district, said that Officers Ruzek and Howard Erdman were cruising through the district in search of a car bearing out-of-town license plates.

This machine was said to have been used in a holdup in an adjoining district, a short while before.

As the officers entered the 1600 block Latrobe Street, about 1:30 a.m., Thursday, they saw a parked car, bearing Pennsylvania tags, and approached the occupants, several youths, for questioning, the captain explained.

Cops Say Pair Ran

Instead of remaining in the car, Captain Itzel continued, two of the youths began running away and when Officer Ruzek's command to halt was ignored, he fired one shot into the air.

Explaining the shooting of Reed, Captain Itzel said when Ruzek saw one of the fleeing youths raise his arm as if to fire a gun, he leveled his service revolver and pulled the trigger. The Reed boy dropped dead with a bullet wound through his left chest.

No Gun Found

Captain Itzel admitted that officers were unable to find the the revolver Lawrence was said to have pointed at Officer Ruzek, but explained that it must have been picked up by one of the spectators who gathered after the shooting.

Witnesses insisted, however, that the youth did not have a revolver and that he did not raise his arm threateningly.

The three youths who remained in the back of the car were taken into custody and slated on a charge of larceny of an automobile. Reed was taken to Mercy Hospital, pronounced dead and his body removed to the morgue.

Though the car the youth were in was not the one involved in the hold-up, it had been reported stolen from a parking lot at Charles and Read Street, officers said.

Joy Ride Ends in Tragedy

Captain Itzel said his investigation disclosed that the car had been taken from the parking lot by John Davis, 17, of 1029 N. Eutaw Street, who is employed as a parking lot attendant. Davis, it was alleged, drove up to the group of associates while they were standing at Eutaw and Hoffman Streets, and offered to take them for a ride. This ride ended in Latrobe Street.

AUG 9 1941

Arraigned before Magistrate Elmer Hammer in Central police court, late Thursday afternoon, the five were held under bail pending a further hearing. They were docketed as:

Davis; Howard Reed, 18, the dead boy's brother; Granville Parker, 19, of 1006 Linden Avenue; Clyde Baines, 17, of 107 W. Biddle Street; John Williams, 16, 1222 Madison Avenue.

Eyewitnesses Disagree

Residents of the 1600 block Latrobe Street who are listed as witnesses have given an entirely different version of the shooting. They said the car bearing the youths drove up before one of the houses and the group got out and danced on the sidewalk to radio music coming from within the car.

One of them, according to this version, saw the approaching radio car and sounded the alarm to his associates, whereupon all of them fled except the Reed boy, who crouched down beside the running board of the machine and tried to hide.

Warning Denied

Crawling to the rear of the car, the Reed boy stood up and prepared to run, not knowing that the officer was a few inches away. As he stood, the officer allegedly pointed his revolver and fired one shot without one word and ropped the suspect in his tracks. The arrests of several of the other frightened youths followed.

Howard Reed, however, was not arrested until several hours later when police surprised him in his bed at home.

At that time, their father, Gilbert Reed, said the officers refused to explain their mission other than to say that "Your boy has stolen an auto."

Mr. Reed said he didn't know that his other son had been killed until the officers returned later.

AUG 9 1941

Victim Employed

The Reeds are a large family. Lawrence, whom they called "Sugar," was employed at a local bottling concern. Funeral arrangements had not been completed at presstime. It was learned, however, that burial will probably be in Lynchburg, Va., their native home.

In addition to his father, Lawrence is survived by his mother, Mrs. Iva Reed; three brothers, Leonard, 23; Gilbert, Jr., 22; William, 21, and Howard, 18; and four sisters, Catherine, 20; Isabel, 17; Frances, 15, and Hilda, 9 years.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

DETAILS OF FORT CUSTER KILLING WITHHELD BY ARMY OFFICIALS; MISHAP TAKES ANOTHER LIFE

Private Henry Arthur Pryor Being Held For Investigation; Is Said to Have Fired Shot

CONFLICTING REPORTS ON WEAPON USED

DEC 6 - 1941

DEC 6 - 1941

FORT CUSTER, Mich.—(ANP)—The 184th field artillery figured prominently in the news last week when information slipped through the strict army censorship that a member of the regiment was killed during a scuffle in one of the barracks last Tuesday. Details of the killing of Pvt. Charles H. Adams were being withheld by army officials as two investigations of the fatal shooting were launched.

Held for questioning by investigators was Pvt. Henry Arthur Pryor, 21-year-old member of the outfit, who was said to have have fired the shot which killed Pvt. Adams. Conflicting unofficial reports on the weapon used in the killing stated on the one hand that the bullet came from a .45 calibre service revolver, while on the other hand, it was reported that a civilian weapon was used. Army officials declined to discuss the incident.

One investigating body is composed of members of the post general staff, while another probe is being conducted by Col. Anderson F. Pitts, commander of the 184th. No official report will be released until the investigations have been completed.

In the meantime, the body of Adams has been shipped to his home in Chicago for burial.

Pryor, also of Chicago, is the brother of Sgt. Frank Pryor, Jr. for years a member of the former Eighth infantry (N. G.). He served three years in a CCC camp in northern Illinois and upon being honorably discharged therefrom, joined the 184th. Last spring he attended the artillery mechanics school at Fort Sill, Okla., where he completed a three month course.

DEC 6 - 1941

Another tragic episode was enacted here when Shelby Saunders died last Thursday afternoon while enroute to hospital here several hours after he had been severely injured as a result of having several fingers caught and crushed by a tow chain in a company garage. Death was attributed to heart failure.

Saunders, a member of service company, first battalion commanded by Capt. William Turner, was a selectee and believed to be from Chicago.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

INDICT POLICE OFFICER IN NEGRO DEATH CASE

JAN 18 1941

Albert Zachary, Of Brookhaven, Named By Grand Jury

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., Jan. 17. —Albert Zachary, a Brookhaven police officer, has been indicted by the Lincoln County Grand Jury for the murder of Ben (Sackman) Singleton, negro, last Sept. 28.

A negro, Willie Smith, has confessed and implicated two other negroes, Paul Sartin and Lester Wilson.

New figures brought into the case by the grand jury were Zachary and Solon Durr, white, and Clara Mae Roberts and Alberta Smith, negroes, who also were indicted.

INDICT WHITE COP IN DEATH OF RACE MAN

FEB 1 1941

BROOKKHAVEN, Miss., Jan. 30 —An indictment was returned by the Lincoln county grand jury here Wednesday, against Albert Zachary, (white) local police officer, charging him with the murder of Ben Singleton on September 28 of last year.

Battered and hacked almost beyond recognition, the body of Singleton was found in a field near the outskirts of the town.

The police officer, Solon Durr, also white, and Clara Roberts and Alberta Smith, race man, are new figures brought into the case by grand jury action. All were indicted.

Willie Smith had previously confessed to the crime, implicating two other members of his race, Lester Wilson and Paul Sartin.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THEN..HE CHANGED HIS MIND

FEB 8 1941

Retracts Story of Killing Which Implicated Whites.

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., Feb. 6 — Cases against Albert Zachery, white, local policeman, and four other defendants, implicated in a confession and testimony before a grand jury, of Willie Smith, in the murder of Ben Singleton, known as "Sack-Man," and an alleged "voodoo" practitioner, were dropped here Tuesday when Smith, who has been convicted of the killing and sentenced to life imprisonment—repudiated both the implication of the others in his confession and his testimony that they took part in the murder.

Smith's testimony and confession was to the effect, it was said, that he, Zachery, another white man, Solo Durr, and Doc Wilson, Clara May Roberts and Alberta Smith, took part in the slaying of Singleton, the women remaining in the car in which the men took Singleton to the vacant field where his hacked and battered body was later found. He gave as the motive for the crime that Singleton was interfering with the illicit liquor business he and the others arrested had been conducting. Smiths' repudiation came when he was called as a witness in the case of Doc Wilson.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MAN JAILED 20 YEARS AFTER ALLEGED CRIME

FEB 24 1941

J. W. Wells Of Meridian Is Accused Of Slaying

FEB 24 1941

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MERIDIAN, Miss., Feb. 23.—More than 20 years after the death of his alleged victim, J. W. Wells, 40, of Meridian, is in the Lauderdale County Jail Sunday in connection with the slaying of Frank Watters, negro woman whom he is accused by Mrs. Wells of shooting in Newton County in 1920. County Atty. E. R. Wall of Newton is investigating.

Murder and arson are the charges against Wells. He was arrested in the courthouse after he had had his wife jailed and requested a sanity hearing for her. The arson charges grew out of Wells' purported firing of the home of Tom Jones in Newton County in 1923, Sheriff Fred Ross said.

Last Wednesday, Wells appeared before Chancery Clerk Howard Cameron to ask for a sanity hearing for his wife, claiming she had become violent. Mrs. Wells was placed in the county jail pending hearing before a sanity jury.

Dr. W. D. May of the Lauderdale County Health Department examined Mrs. Wells and reported her mental condition normal. Mrs. Wells then told Sheriff Ross that her husband had maltreated her for many years, and in 1920 had killed the negro woman in the woods near the Wells home. She charged that in 1923 Wells had set fire to the home of Jones, a neighbor, the sheriff said.

Wells denied any guilt in connection with either the negro woman's death or the burning of the Jones' residence. He insisted his wife is subject to abnormal flights of fancy, and attributed her statements to this alleged condition.

County Attorney Wall said no formal charges had been filed in Newton County Sunday but added Wells will be transferred to the Newton County Jail Monday. Mr. Wall said he had conferred with W. C. Mabry, at present postmaster at Newton, and who was sheriff in 1920, and declared Mabry remembered investigating the shooting of the Watters negro and the burning of the Jones' residence.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

FAILS TO BEAT CHAIR, GRADY WHITE MUST DIE

APR 15 1941

Conviction Upheld In Philadelphia Night Club Killing

DATE IS SET FOR MAY 15

Mississippi Court Rejects Appeal In Slaying Of Sam McCune Over Cut In Pinball 'Take'—Negro Re-Sentenced

By KENNETH TOLER
From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., April 14.—Grady White, notorious Neshoba County night club operator and confidant of Charley Chapman, the South's No. 1 bad man, Monday was ordered electrocuted May 15 in a Supreme Court decision upholding his sentence for the murder of Sam McCune, pinball machine company representative.

McCune was shot to death by White in the Blue Goose night club, three miles from Philadelphia about 9 a.m., July 29, 1940, near the scene where in November, 1939 Chapman shot his way to freedom when surrounded by Louisiana and Mississippi officers.

Chapman Still Fugitive

White was arrested in connection with the Chapman case when authorities charged him with harboring the former Arkansas contractor and native of Neshoba County, who is still sought by Federal and state law enforcement officers.

White will be the first white man electrocuted since substitution in 1940 of the electric chair for the hangman's noose.

APR 15 1941

In other state cases, the Supreme Court affirmed the death sentence of Booker T. Childress, Newton County negro, who had been scheduled as the first occupant of the electric chair, setting his execution for May 2, and then reversed the death sentences of Willie Fortenberry and R. D. Morris, Pike County negroes convicted in Amite County in connection with the beating of Alton Gatlin, farmer. Fortenberry and Morris were sentenced under the 1932 statute making robbery with firearms a capital offense, which the court said did not apply in their cases.

The record in the White murder case disclosed that he shot McCune in the night club, which the former had leased to Emmett Daniels, after accusing McCune of placing machines in Neshoba County without cutting him in on the percentage. McCune represented the Mississippi Vending Machine Co., which had the pinball machines and nickelodeons in numerous establishments in the vicinity of Neshoba County.

White's conviction was based on testimony of Daniels, an eye witness to the shooting and events looking up to it.

Earl Wingo of Hattiesburg, attorney for White, unsuccessfully sought a change of venue based on feelings in the county. This issue was the principal assignment of error in White's appeal.

Fortenberry Case

Justice Virgil Griffith, author of the majority opinion in the Fortenberry-Morris case, said that it was evident from the record that "no premeditated thought of robbery had ever occurred to these negroes; and a new statute cannot be put to any such use as has been here attempted." Chief Justice Sydney Smith in a separate opinion concurred in part with the majority holding. The amount involved in the alleged robbery was $2.

APR 15 1941

"The 1932 law providing the death penalty for robbery by force of firearms was enacted primarily to cope with depression-encouraged highway banditry and is not to be applied when robbery is a mere incident to or collateral development," Justice Griffith said in reversing the death sentences of the two negroes and ordering a new trial.

Fourth Execution Date

The Childress execution date, set in the opinion written by Justice W. D. Anderson, was the fourth for the negro. He had originally been sentenced in Newton County to be hanged in 1939 for the murder of a negro woman. An appeal to the Supreme Court acted as a stay, but when a decision was rendered, the conviction was affirmed and sentence reset for June 12, 1940.

APR 15 1941

Childress, a few days before that date, had another prisoner write the sheriff a note stating that he would rather be "electrocuted" than hanged. The 1940 act providing for a portable electric chair and making electrocution the legal method of inflicting the death penalty granted to men under the death sentence at the time of enactment of the bill which gave condemned men the privilege of choosing between the chair and the gallows. Bill which gave condemned men this choice was invalid as "an ex post facto law," that the state could not sentence Childress to the chair because hanging was the only legal method of imposing the death penalty at the time Childress acted as another stay of sentence.

The Supreme Court Monday held that it was without power to affirm the sentence and set the new date May 2, but that this appeal "involved no question that would be of any value to the bench or bar," and affirmed the sentence at the time of enactment out merit, and affirmed the sentence and set the new date May 2.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

INDICT POLICE OFFICER IN NEGRO DEATH CASE

JAN 18 1941

Albert Zachary, Of Brookhaven, Named By Grand Jury

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., Jan. 17.—Albert Zachary, a Brookhaven police officer, has been indicted by the Lincoln County Grand Jury for the murder of Ben (Sackman) Singleton, negro, last Sept. 28.

A negro, Willie Smith, has confessed and implicated two other negroes, Paul Sartin and Lester Wilson.

New figures brought into the case by the grand jury were Zachary and Solon Durr, white, and Clara Mae Roberts and Alberta Smith, negroes, who also were indicted.

INDICT WHITE COP IN DEATH OF RACE MAN

FEB 1 1941

BROOKKHAVEN, Miss., Jan. 30—An indictment was returned by the Lincoln county grand jury here Wednesday, against Albert Zachary, (white) local police officer, charging him with the murder of Ben Singleton on September 28 of last year.

Battered and hacked almost beyond recognition, the body of Singleton was found in a field near the outskirts of the town.

The police officer, Solon Durr, also white, and Clara Roberts and Alberta Smith, race man, are new figures brought into the case by grand jury action. All were indicted.

Willie Smith had previously confessed to the crime, implicating two other members of his race, Lester Wilson and Paul Sartin.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

THEN..HE CHANGED HIS MIND

FEB 8 1941

Retracts Story of Killing Which Implicated Whites.

33

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., Feb. 6 — Cases against Albert Zachery, white, local policeman, and four other defendants, implicated in a confession and testimony before a grand jury, of Willie Smith, in the murder of Ben Singleton, known as "Sack-Man," and an alleged "voodoo" practitioner, were dropped here Tuesday when Smith, who has been convicted of the killing and sentenced to life imprisonment—repudiated both the implication of the others in his confession and his testimony that they took part in the murder.

Smith's testimony and confession was to the effect, it was said, that he, Zachery, another white man, Solo Durr, and Doc Wilson, Clara May Roberts and Alberta Smith, took part in the slaying of Singleton, the women remaining in the car in which the men took Singleton to the vacant field where his hacked and battered body was later found. He gave as the motive for the crime that Singleton was interfering with the illicit liquor business he and the others arrested had been conducting. Smiths' repudiation came when he was called as a witness in the case of Doc Wilson.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MAN JAILED 20 YEARS AFTER ALLEGED CRIME

FEB 24 1941

J. W. Wells Of Meridian Is Accused Of Slaying

FEB 24 1941

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MERIDIAN, Miss., Feb. 23.—More than 20 years after the death of his alleged victim, J. W. Wells, 40, of Meridian, is in the Lauderdale County Jail Sunday in connection with the slaying of Frank Watters, negro woman whom he is accused by Mrs. Wells of shooting in Newton County in 1920. County Atty. E. R. Wall of Newton is investigating.

Murder and arson are the charges against Wells. He was arrested in the courthouse after he had had his wife jailed and requested a sanity hearing for her. The arson charges grew out of Wells' purported firing of the home of Tom Jones in Newton County in 1923, Sheriff Fred Ross said.

Last Wednesday, Wells appeared before Chancery Clerk Howard Cameron to ask for a sanity hearing for his wife, claiming she had become violent. Mrs. Wells was placed in the county jail pending hearing before a sanity jury.

Dr. W. D. May of the Lauderdale County Health Department examined Mrs. Wells and reported her mental condition normal. Mrs. Wells then told Sheriff Ross that her husband had maltreated her for many years, and in 1920 had killed the negro woman in the woods near the Wells home. She charged that in 1923 Wells had set fire to the home of Jones, a neighbor, the sheriff said.

Wells denied any guilt in connection with either the negro woman's death or the burning of the Jones' residence. He insisted his wife is subject to abnormal flights of fancy, and attributed her statements to this alleged condition.

County Attorney Wall said no formal charges had been filed in Newton County Sunday but added Wells will be transferred to the Newton County Jail Monday. Mr. Wall said he had conferred with W. C. Mabry, at present postmaster at Newton, and who was sheriff in 1920, and declared Mabry remembered investigating the shooting of the Watters negro and the burning of the Jones' residence.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

FAILS TO BEAT CHAIR, GRADY WHITE MUST DIE

APR 15 1941

Conviction Upheld In Philadelphia Night Club Killing

DATE IS SET FOR MAY 15

Mississippi Court Rejects Appeal In Slaying Of Sam McCune Over Cut In Pinball 'Take'—Negro Re-Sentenced

By KENNETH TOLER
From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., April 14.—Grady White, notorious Neshoba County night club operator and confidant of Charley Chapman, the South's No. 1 bad man, Monday was ordered electrocuted May 15 in a Supreme Court decision upholding his sentence for the murder of Sam McCune, pinball machine company representative.

McCune was shot to death by White in the Blue Goose night club, three miles from Philadelphia about 9 a.m., July 29, 1940, near the scene where in November, 1939 Chapman shot his way to freedom when surrounded by Louisiana and Mississippi officers.

Chapman Still Fugitive

White was arrested in connection with the Chapman case when authorities charged him with harboring the former Arkansas contractor and native of Neshoba County, who is still sought by Federal and state law enforcement officers.

White will be the first white man electrocuted since substitution in 1940 of the electric chair for the hangman's noose.

APR 15 1941

In other state cases, the Supreme Court affirmed the death sentence of Booker T. Childress, Newton County negro, who had been scheduled as the first occupant of the electric chair, setting his execution for May 2, and then reversed the death sentences of Willie Fortenberry and R. D. Morris, Pike County negroes convicted in Amite County in connection with the beating of Alton Gatlin, farmer. Fortenberry and Morris were sentenced under the 1932 statute making robbery with firearms a capital offense, which the court said did not apply in their cases.

The record in the White murder case disclosed that he shot McCune in the night club, which the former had leased to Emmett Daniels, after accusing McCune of placing machines in Neshoba County without cutting him in on the percentage. McCune represented the Mississippi Vending Machine Co., which had the pinball machines and nickelodeons in numerous establishments in the vicinity of Neshoba County.

White's conviction was based on testimony of Daniels, an eye witness to the shooting and events looking up to it.

Earl Wingo of Hattiesburg, attorney for White, unsuccessfully sought a change of venue based on feelings in the county. This issue was the principal assignment of error in White's appeal.

Fortenberry Case

Justice Virgil Griffith, author of the majority opinion in the Fortenberry-Morris case, said that it was evident from the record that "no premeditated thought of robbery had ever occurred to these negroes; and a new statute cannot be put to any such use as has been here attempted." Chief Justice Sydney Smith in a separate opinion concurred in part with the majority holding. The amount involved in the alleged robbery was $2.

APR 15 1941

"The 1932 law providing the death penalty for robbery by force of firearms was enacted primarily to cope with depression-encouraged highway banditry and is not to be applied when robbery is a mere incident to or collateral development," Justice Griffith said in reversing the death sentences of the two negroes and ordering a new trial.

Fourth Execution Date

The Childress execution date, set in the opinion written by Justice W. D. Anderson, was the fourth for the negro. He had originally been sentenced in Newton County to be hanged in 1939 for the murder of a negro woman. An appeal to the Supreme Court acted as a stay, but when a decision was rendered, the conviction was affirmed and sentence reset for June 12, 1940.

APR 15 1941

Childress, a few days before that date, had another prisoner write the sheriff a note stating that he would rather be "electrocuted" than hanged. The 1940 act providing for a portable electric chair and making electrocution the legal method of inflicting the death penalty granted to men under the death sentence at the time of enactment of the bill the privilege of choosing between the chair and the gallows. Bill which gave condemned men this choice was invalid as "an ex post facto law," that the state Sheriff John T. Smith of Newton County accepted Childress' note, but could not sentence Childress to the chair. But on June 12, the execution date, chair because hanging was the only the chair had not been delivered. legal method of imposing the death At the next term of Circuit Court, penalty at the time Childress Childress was resentenced to die in the killed the woman. That appeal the chair, Sept. 27, 1940. acted as another stay of sentence.

His attorneys appealed, contending that this appeal "involved no question that would be of any value to the bench or bar, that it was without merit, and affirmed the sentence and set the new date May 2.

The Supreme Court Monday held

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Mississippi Slayer Executed, Chair To Claim Another Today

By The As

JACKSON, Miss., May 15.—One murderer was buried, a second was prepared for death and a third convicted man faced the spectre of the state's portable electric chair in Mississippi Thursday.

They were:

Grady White, executed in Philadelphia at 2:18 a.m. Thursday for the killing of Sam McCune and the first white man to die in the state's electric chair. Relatives and friends buried White late Thursday.

Booker T. Childress, Newton County negro, scheduled to die about 12:10 a.m. Friday at Decatur for the murder of a negro woman.

Death Date Is Set

Wilbur Sutton, negro exconvict, sentenced in Lexington to be electrocuted June 20 for the murder and robbery on May 3 of Charlie (Fox) Please, aged negro paper carrier.

The state's portable electric chair early Thursday was transported in its big silvery truck to Decatur from nearby Philadelphia. Sheriff John Smith of Newton County said all was in readiness for the execution of Childress, who four times obtained a stay of sentence through appeals to the Supreme Court.

Sheriff Smith said the execution would take place immediately after lidnight and that Childress was "calm and ready to die." Citing little local interest in the execution, he anticipated no disturbance.

White, intimate of public enemy Charles Chapman and operator of a Neshoba County roadhouse, was buried in Philadelphia.

Execution Guarded

White's execution early Thursday had been a peaceful, though somewhat delayed process. As 12 State Guardsmen and a score of highway patrolmen, all heavily armed, stood guard to prevent mob violence or the realization of White's threats that Chapman would not let him die.

The tiny Neshoba County Jail was well-filled and larger crowds stood quietly behind street barricades as White was brought to Philadelphia following a peaceful trip from Jackson under heavy guard. At 12:50 a.m., during the wait of more than an hour he sat quietly in an upstairs cell, saying little as he had his head shaved, heard the death warrant read and received final absolution from his Catholic priest, Father Francis Deignan.

Without making a final statement, he walked calmly down the steps and was seated in the chair. In the pocket of his light brown suit was a Catholic prayer book and a note, written in pencil.

"Mother, I'll meet you in Heaven —Grady," it said.

Retained Composure

As the belts and electrodes were attached, he glanced about the room, smiling once, but never losing his composure. The electric chair motor hummed and Father Deignan began to pray. Five minutes after the shock was applied, physicians pronounced him dead and the crowd quietly dispersed. His sister, Odessa appeared in the wake of the funeral coach to claim his body. Earlier she and another sister, weeping, had appeared in the alley outside the jail, then had driven away. His mother and his wife did not attend the execution.

White had been convicted for the shooting last September of a vending machine distributor. Irate mobs burned his night club, the Blue Goose near Philadelphia, following the crime. The Supreme Court had rejected two appeals, and Governor Johnson refused commutation, terming the shooting of McCune "a most horrible murder."

Silent since September, White made no statement until the night before his death. The nhe summoned a newspaper reporter to his cell in the Hinds County Jail and in a lengthy interview said the killing had been an accident and that witnesses who testified against him had lied.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO HELD FOR MURDER

Confesses in Killing of White Man At Lake

NEWTON, Miss., May 30.—Costell Jones, negro, of Louisville, a former resident of Lake, is charged with murder, after confessing to the fatal shooting of C. J. McComb, aged Lake white man, early Wednesday morning, May 21, and is in the Newton County jail at Decatur. Jones, in his confession, stated that he, Fred Quarrels and Sheddrick Moore, negroes, of Lake, had planned the robbery and has discussed it at several different times prior to Wednesday.

In Jones' three-page confession he stated that Quarrels was the only one with him at the time of the murder, but that Quarrels only helped him in robbing Mr. McComb. Jones said he fired the three fatal shots that penetrated Mr. McComb's head. He stated that he borrowed the gun from Sheddrick Moore and hid, waiting for Mr. McComb to pass by, when Quarrels stopped Mr. McComb. He claimed they were to divide the money taken from Mr. McComb in three parts.

Jones was out on bond for the murder of Howard Merrell, another negro, who was killed on the streets of Lake about a year ago.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Gov. Suspends Life Sentence Of Mississippi Youth

JACKSON, Miss.—Saying that "The prisoner is a poor, ignorant, helpless child and did not deserve this punishment," Gov. Paul B. Johnson a few days ago suspended indefinitely, the life sentence imposed upon Stein Williams of Tate county eight years ago, when he was only 13 years old for being an accomplice in a murder.

The governor's action was brought about on the recommendations of persons who acted on the youth's behalf. The governor declared that he should have been sent to a reform school instead of a prison and said that he felt that Williams "has been sufficiently punished."

Nevertheless, the state does not maintain a reform school for colored youth although vigorous efforts have been made in this direction by the State Federation of Colored Women's clubs and interested white persons.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Two Negro Murderers Of Negroes To Die In Electric Chair

LAST WEEK, DOWN IN McCOMB CITY, which is the County site of Pike County, Judge J. F. Guynes, presiding over the Pike County Circuit Court, sentenced two Negroes to die in the electric chair.

In both cases the murder victims were other Negroes.

For many years now, the high homicide and murder rate among Negroes in Mississippi has been one of the blackest marks upon the good name of the State, and upon numerous occasions has been the subject of discussion among different groups interested in moral, spiritual, and cultural development of the Mississippi Negro.

In our observation of the efforts of these groups, usually expressed in the form of petitions and resolutions, one of the invariable conclusions reached by them has been that the high murder and homicide rate among Negroes in Mississippi was due in a large degree to the comparatively minor punishment meted out to Negro murderers, especially in cases where the murder victims were other Negroes. No person who has given even casual attention to the sentences given in the case of Negro murders will deny the truth of that conclusion.

It is also true, and of equal importance that, the indifference to the value of Negro life and manhood in the sum total of Mississippi citizenry, among those who make up the jury in trials of Negro murders has been and is a major cause for the comparatively minor punishments given to Negro murderers of Negroes.

Under the above conditions except for the occasional attention given to the problem by one or two white and Negro organizations in the State, with no aroused public opinion (in fact we have often heard the remark that you can get out cheaper for killing another Negro than for being caught selling whiskey), Negro murder and homicide have increased almost yearly, until today Mississippi has the unenviable record of having the highest murder and homicide rate, not alone among Negroes, but generally, of all the States in the country.

In every country, notably in England, where the old Mosaic Code, of an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, is applied in the case of murder, the rate is almost insignificant.

The application of the Mosaic Code to murderers with a like degree of certainty among Negroes, as well as others, will soon begin to have the same affect in Mississippi.

In Pike County and throughout the State, all thinking intelligent Negroes, will commend and congratulate Judge Guynes and the Juries who heard the above trials, and it is our hope that his decision in these cases presages the beginning of a time in all the courts of the State, when Negro murderers will be given the measure of punishment their crime deserves, for in so doing, we see the only way to reduce the high murder and homicide rate among Negroes in Mississippi.

—From the Jackson (Miss.) Advocate.

Greenville Miss.
Democrat Times
Jan. 13, 1941

ONE LIFE EQUALS ONE PAIR OF SHOES

A few days ago the Democrat called attention to the alarming number of Negro killings reported during recent months, and ventured the opinion that the homicide rate would drop sharply if the courts of the Delta would punish its Negro murderers severely and if the police would make it exceedingly tough on Negroes carrying weapons.

Only a few days later two cases emphasizing the indifference with which Delta courts and law enforcement officers regard Negro killings were "disposed of" in circuit court.

The first was the case of N. C. Campbell, a Negro who stole a $2.98 pair of shoes from a rooming house. He got a year in the state penitentiary, which is no bed of roses, and which he probably deserved.

The second was the case of Tardy Braxton, a Negress who was indicted by the grand jury on a charge of murder. We understand that the case against her was practically air-tight, in the opinion of the officers who made the investigation and gathered the evidence. And yet, her sentence is lighter than that of the Negro who stole a pair of shoes. She will serve a year in the county jail, where, being a good cook, she will doubtless be made a trusty, be given the run of the jail and the courthouse, and pick up as much in tips as she made all last year. Also, she'll have a cleaner bed and better food than she usually has.

How can such a situation come about? Well, the Delta, unfortunately, has never considered the killing of one Negro by another seriously. The county prosecuting attorney with the consent of the presiding judge, changes the charge to manslaughter, and settles for a year's sentence. It's too much trouble to try the case, you see, and — well, apparently not very important. A year is plenty for a Negro killing, and according to custom.

Our courts can't seem to realize that Delta Negroes serenely kill one another largely because of the impunity with which the killing can be done. They know that a lazy year in jail is the likely punishment, that anything as severe as life imprisonment or electrocution is unheard of.

Dave Cohn, who knows the Delta and the Negro, once published a letter from a young Negro woman who moved to Boston from Greenville. Eva Mae contrasts justice in the North and South.

... Then I started going about. My first Boy friend I had met I really liked got jealous an threatened to kill me so I quit him an started out with another bunch of boys an girls. Finely one day this boy I had quit new that I went to a beauty shop on Saturday. So he caught me outside an tried to cut my throat with a sharp meat knife. I run inside a grocery store and slammed the door. The police got the boy. They gave him six months in the jail house for that an 4 more years when they found out he had jumped his parole. I know a colored girl right here in Greenville that killed another girl about a man. They didn't give her but one year in jail. White folks in the north is tough on you when they catch you in trouble. They easier in that way in Mississippi. . . .

Yes, they easier in that way in Mississippi. One Negro life is worth just about $2.98, or the price of a pair of cheap hoes. Mr. Thompson and the courts ought to raise that price considerably.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

HARD FEELING FLARES AS RESULT OF KILLING

Exmail Carrier Shot In Fight Concerning Negro

TENANT BEING BEATEN

Sawmill Operator And Two Farmers Are Held As Result Of Affray Taking Place Monday At Town Of Tomnolen

Special to The Commercial Appeal

EUPORA, Miss., Sept. 2.—Feeling was reported running high in the section a few miles west of here Tuesday night following the death of James Stewart, 71-year-old retired rural mail carrier, who was shot late Monday when he attempted to stop three men from beating one of his negro tenants.

Walter Hodges, sawmill operator, and Elvie Gibson and J. B. Mitchell, farmers of the Tomnolen community, eight miles west of here are held in the Montgomery County jail at Winona, Miss. without charge pending completion of an investigation by Sheriff J. T. Wright of Webster County.

Negroes Are Held

The negro tenant, James Irving, 23, his mother, Mattie Irving and Nazreth Clark, negro woman, are in the Webster County jail at Walthall, Miss.

Sheriff Wright said the trouble began a week ago at the Hodges sawmill when Mr. Hodges reportedly reprimanded the negro, James Irving. Mr. Hodges told officers he whipped the negro when he cursed him.

Late Monday afternoon, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Mitchell were said to have been standing in front of Dean's Store in Tomnolen when the negro Irving appeared with a pistol. They reported they took the gun away from the negro and began whipping him with a leather strap when Mr. Stewart ran up and attempted to make them stop.

Free-For-All Fight

In the free-for-all fight that followed Mr. Hodges was cut across the back, reportedly by Mr. Stewart who was shot three times, once in the head and twice in the stomach. The negro women were said to have joined in the fight just as the shooting took place.

Mr. Stewart died at 1 a.m. Tuesday in the Winona Infirmary.

Surviving are one sister, Mrs. Bessie Noblin, Maben; three brothers, [illegible], Luther and Marshall Stewart of Mathiston.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the graveside in Crepe Creek Cemetery in Choctaw County.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

NEGRO BEING SOUGHT FOR KILLING FARMER

Sunflower County Resident Is Beaten To Death

Special to The Commercial Appeal

INDIANOLA, Miss., Sept. 1.—Authorities Monday continued their investigations into the killing here of Claudie Lee Cornelius, 31, Sunflower County farmer, who was found beaten to death Sunday on a county road.

A bloodstained piece of timber with a spike in the end was found near the body of Cornelius.

Sheriff Van R. Burnham said a negro, known to have been with the victim early Saturday night, was being sought for questioning in connection with the killing. An inquest was ordered held.

Cornelius, father of six children, was a native of Chancey, Miss., and came to this county six months ago.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at Bethel in Grenada County.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

THREE NEGROES TOLD TO GET OUT OF COUNTY

Were Cause Of Fight Where White Man Died

Special to The Commercial Appeal

EUPORA, Miss., Sept. 5.—Three negroes held in the Webster County jail at Walthall since Monday night following the slaying of James Stewart, 71, when he interceded in a fight in their behalf, were released Friday on condition that they leave the county and not return.

The negroes were James Irving, 23-year-old tenant on Mr. Stewart's farm; his mother, and another negro woman.

James was being beaten by three men at Tomnolen who claimed they had taken a pistol from him when Mr. Stewart attempted to protect the negro. Mr. Stewart was shot in the head and stomach, dying several hours later in a Winona, Miss., hospital.

The three men arrested in the slaying were released on bonds of $750 each Thursday afternoon. They were Walter Hodges, Ellzy Gibson and J. B. Mitchell. Mr. Hodges was cut on the shoulder in the affray.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

THREE OUT ON BOND IN WEBSTER SLAYING

Grand Jury Will Investigate Death Of Walter Stewart

Special to The Commercial Appeal

EUPORA, Miss., Sept. 4.—Three men held in connection with the killing of Walter Stewart, 71, retired rural mail carrier at Tomnolen Monday were released on bonds of $750 each after a preliminary hearing Thursday afternoon.

The men were Walter Hodges, Ellzy Gibson and J. B. Mitchell. They were bound over to await the action of the grand jury which meets the fourth Monday in November. The hearing was before Justice of the Peace George F. Butler at Walthall.

The shooting occurred in front of Dean's Store at Tomnolen when Mr. Stewart attempted to stop the three men from beating James Irving, young negro tenant on his farm.

Hodges, Gibson and Mitchell claimed the negro, who had been whipped by Hodges a few days before, approached them with a gun which they took away from him.

Mr. Stewart was shot when he joined in the fight.

Hodges said he was cut on the back by Mr. Stewart before the latter was shot in the head and stomach.

No action was taken in the cases of the Irving negro, his mother and another negro woman, who are held in jail at Walthall without charge.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WHITE FARMER ACCUSED IN 20-YEAR-OLD MURDER

Wife Charges White Man With Murdering Race Woman When He Tried to Have Her Placed in Insane Asylum—Said to Have Shot Woman in Woods.

MERIDIAN, Miss., Mar. 6—Charged with shooting to death Mrs. Frankie Watters in Newton County in the summer of 1920, J. W. Wells, 40-year-old white man of this city, is being held in jail here without bond pending an investigation which will be conducted by County Attorney E. R. Wall. Wells is acused of the murder by his own wife, who has also told authorities that some three years after the killing he burned to the ground the home of Thomas Jones, a neighbor.

The accusations were the dramatic outgrowth of action by Wells last week in having his wife jailed and requesting that she be given a sanity hearing, alleging she was addicted to fits of fantastic imagining and had recently become violent. Mental experts who examined the woman declared her normal, however.

It was after these experts had made their report and she had been released that the wife, stating she had been mistreated and abused by her husband for a long period of years, told Sheriff Fred Ross that Wells murdered the Negro woman in 1920, in the woods near their home, and that some three years later he fired the Jones home. Neither the murder nor the mysterious burning had ever been solved.

Denying the charges on which he is held, Wells still insists his wife is mentaly deranged.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

BUMPS INTO GUN; KILLED

JAN 10 1941

White Youth Freed In The Death Of Negro Helper

A Coroner's verdict of accident was returned in the death of Maceo Scott, 37, laborer, who was shot in the left chest and fatally wounded Friday about 9:25 a.m. at 1440a N. 16th street. Pete Rallo, 25, (white) of the latter address told officers that a .25 automatic from which he was removing the clip, was discharged when Scott bumped into him.

According to the testimony of three white witnesses, Robert Moran, 21, 1618 1-2 N. 18th street, Charles Vital, 51, 1442a N. 16th street and John Colombo, 19, 1405 Blair avenue, which corresponded, Rallo had gone into the back yard of his home with the three to investigate the presence of several persons believed to be colored men and a woman. The prowlers dispersed as they went down into the yard, whereon Rallo and his brother-in-law, Moran, returned to the house, while the other two went elsewhere.

JAN 10 1941

Bumped Into

Rallo told officers that on reentering the kitchen he found Scott, who he knew as "Macel" and "Blue Jay" in the kitchen. He stated that he was standing by the stove taking the clip from the automatic when Scott bumped against him and the gun went off. Scott then grabbed his left side and exclaimed, "I am shot". He staggered to the porch and fell.

Moran corroborated Rallo's version of the shooting. An ambulance was called and conveyed the wounded man to Phillips Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

According to the statement of the witnesses, Rallo fed Scott and gave him money as Scott worked for his brother helping him on his truck.

Scott resided at 1450 O'Fallon street. His body was identified by Stella Smith, 1005 N. 12th street, his former commonlaw wife. He is also survived by two children, 16 and 14 years of age who reside with their mother on North Garfield.

JAN 10 1941

A brother, supposed to reside in Texarkana, Arkansas, was sought, as Scott had no insurance and no one claimed the body.

CONFESSION IS OBTAINED IN SLAYING

FEB 1 1941

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 30—The mystery of the murder of Mrs. Maybell Cunningham, whose body, with its throat slashed and blood stains all over the house was discovered by her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wash Sowell when they returned home on Thursday evening, January 9, has been cleared up by police with the arrest of her "downstairs" lover, Charles Hubbard.

Hubbard, whose name was given to officers as a suspect, came into the limelight when examinations of clothing belonging to him and found in his room revealed what he claimed to be paint stains to actually be blood stains.

The confession, signed by Hubbard and witnessed by C. W. Roberts, Lucas avenue undertaker along with policemen, related how Hubbard had visited Mrs. Cunningham, with whom he had been keeping company for the past four months, on the day of her death. He said that while she was quitting him for a new lover, Louis Hands, that Hands was not mentioned at all in their final conversations.

Hubbard presented a graphic picture of their last amourous afair, narrating how Mrs. Cunningham had told him that she "was through with him and din't want to see him again," ordering him to go downstairs and stay.

JAN 24 1941

CRIME AGAIN

According to police reports, two young men have confessed to a double murder, saying that they were the ones who killed a storekeeper and his wife on Franklin avenue with the intent of robbery.

To be sure, this is no sweet music to our ears. In fact we deplore such crime wherever found whether the parties are black or white. But in this case it is especially repugnant to us because of the crime wave that has been sweeping our city among our people for some time.

If these two young men, Napoleon Williams and Elmer Jones, are found guilty after a trial by judge and jury, they, of course, will face the lethal gas chamber at Jefferson City. But that does not bring back the persons whose lives were so brutally taken. The lethal chamber does not remove the feeling and the experience we all are forced to undergo because of this ghastly crime. Therefore, there undoubtedly is some way for us to get it over to these young people who are so quick to take the lives of others, the everlasting thought that crime does not pay.

The police officers in this case seem to have done their duty in that they have taken into custody the alleged confessed murderers, but the stain still remains upon the community whether the accused are convicted or not.

With all this, we still believe that something, not only ought to be done, but must be done to curb the murderous crimes that are being committed by the young people in our community.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

4 To Answer For Murder Of Farmer

OCT 11 1941

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Police are still searching for the fourth of a quartet of young men involved in the murder of Martin Twillman, a 23-year-old farmer, and the shooting of his mother, Mrs. Katherine Twillman.

Warrants charging first-degree murder were issued against the four on Thursday, Oct. 2 on the complaint of Marvin Twillman, a cousin of the murdered man.

At an inquest, Marvin Twillman identified Leo Lyles, William Edward Talbert, and Arthur Lee Butler as three of four men who forced him to drive them in a truck down a St. Louis county road until they intercepted a car in which Martin Twillman and his mother were riding. Marvin Twillman said the men then caused the truck to be run into a ditch, after which they jumped from the vehicle and stopped his cousin's car at the point of two revolvers.

Lyles admitted that he and Talbert fired shots, but claimed that he had thought he was firing at Marvin Twillman whom he believed he saw attacking Talbert.

A preliminary hearing has been set for a date within a week. It is said that the death penalty will be asked.

The three men were arrested at the home of the fourth man who is still missing after they had attempted another hold-up using a stolen automobile.

Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

PROBE HORRID CRIME

DEC 26 1941

Last Seen Alive by Brother

All the space of the Coroner's courtroom was packed and jammed Tuesday morning, when the inquest over the body of little seven-year-old Geraldine Brookfield, whose body was found in an ash pit in an alley West of Jefferson avenue between Lawton and Market place Saturday morning, December 20. A Coroner's verdict was read 'Homicide at the hands of unknown parties."

Last Seen By Brother

The last member of the family who saw Geraldine alive was was her little brother, who told his mother he last saw her in company of "Fats", who it is alleged, runs a gambling place. When the mother, Mrs. Willie Mae Brookfield, 2225a Market street, took the stand and told how she and her two sons had walked the streets from about nine o'clock until twelve (midnight) looking for Geraldine, she broke down and wept, which caused tears of the spectators to flow down their cheeks as, handkerchiefs were very much in evidence. Mrs. Brookfield had also stated that the child left home about 6:55 p m. Friday to sell newspapers in the vicinity of Jefferson avenue and Market street.

DEC 26 1941

Was Ace Argus Girl

"I change my nickles into quarters 'cause the nickles take up too much room, and I save the quarters to get my mother a Christmas present. I got it almost paid for. I'm buying her a dress." That was the last conversation an Argus representtive had with little seven year old Geraldine Brookfield, after he had himself given her a quarter for each five nickles she had.

But that Christmas present will never be presented for little Geraldine, an ace ARGUS Salesgirl, was the victim of

one of the most revolting crimes in the police annals of the city. The fiendish criminal-attack-slaying and the discovery of the bloody corpse on an ash heap in the rear of 2624 Lawton boulevard about 6:30 a. m. Saturday, sent police and detectives on an intensive manhunt.

Finds Body

The discovery of the murder was made by Silas Million, 61 laborer, of 2612 (rear) Lawton boulevard. He saw the little figure sprawled on the ashes when he went to empty some rubbish in the pit. He immediately summoned Patrolman Frank Clemmons of the Ninth District, who was walking his beat.

DEC 26 1941

The officer reported that he found the child lying on her back in the pit with her feet protruding through the fence, from which a board was missing. She was fully clothed with blood stains on her panties. Her other clothing included a skirt, sweater, coat, stockings and white leather boots.

The remains were conveyed to Phillips Hospital, where Dr. Russell White pronounced life extinct. It was then conveyed to the morgue, where an coroners' physician pronounced death due to strangulation. He said the girl had been dead about eight hours and had been criminally attacked. Her throat bore fingernail marks and scratches.

Probe Case

Officers McClemons noticed blood stains on Million's overalls and he told them that it was blood from a tooth he had pulled, which had been bleeding for several days. Police investigated in the basement of the Douglass Hotel, 2645 Lawton boulevard, where Million attends the furnace. They found lying on an old victorla case a pair of long underwear with bloodstains on the collar, an overcoat which appeared to be blood stained, and a piece of cardboard with supposed blood stains on it. Million stated all was caused by the bleeding tooth. They were sent to research bureau for investigation.

DEC 26 1941

Million further stated that he attended the furnace about 9:00 p. m. Friday, then went to the home of his friend, Helen Myrick, 2735 Lawton, where he has been sleeping for the past three weeks, and where he has a key. He said he found she had not arrived home and went to bed, where he remained until 5:00 a. m. He then went back to the Douglass Hotel to fire the furnace and left to pick up junk. While walking down the alley he said he discovered the child and placed his hand on one of her legs and found she was cold.

Helen Myrick corroborated Million's statement, relative to the tooth being pulled and bleeding. She also said she found Million in bed when she came home about 11:45 p.m. Friday.

Dr. Simon Phillips testified that he extracted a tooth for Million about two weeks ago from which the patient suffered several hemmorrhages.

DEC 26 1941

Murder Unsolved

A dirty, bloody handkerchief, with no initials, was found by Detective Sergt. Clarence Lee behind a radiator in the Peoples Finance Building, and was held for the bureau of research as a possible clue in the murder.

The murder still remains unsolved, though Million is still being held in the custody of the law for further investigation.

33-1941

NEWJERSEY

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

POLICE SEEK 2 AS KILLERS

JAN 4 1941

Two Killed In Frustrated Holdup Of Jersey City Social Club Room

JAN 4 1941

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—Police of three states are on the lookout for two cold-blooded holdup men who early Saturday morning shot and killed two men in the Blue Ribbon Social Club in an attempted stickup of a card game which was in progress in the club, a converted store at 56 Virginia avenue.

The two men who were victims of the shooting were identified as Wesley Birckett, 58, of 711 Ocean avenue, and Floyd Harris, 48, of 55 Oak street.

Both men died within 15 minutes of each other at the Medical Center after they were struck down by bullets in a wild scene which frustrated the holdup attempt.

JAN 4 1941

According to police, about 18 men were in the club when the holdup men entered the place. Four or five men were playing cards in the rear part of the room behind a partition while the others were watching.

One of the holdup men remained by the door while the other walked to the back of the room where most of the members were grouped about the tables. As the second holdup man reached the back of the room he announced: "This is a stickup," and he and his partner at the door drew guns from their coat pockets.

About half of the card players complied with orders to "Stick up your hands," but others dropped beneath tables and clambered behind chairs. In the mad scramble which followed, Birckett made a dash for the lavatory of the club but was dropped by a shot from the gun of one of the gunmen in the rear. The gunman at the door also opened fire and in the confusion Harris dropped to the floor almost mortally wounded. The two gunmen dashed through the door and disappeared before any of the club members could give chase.

In an effort to solve the crime, police questioned Royal Early, 52, of 343 Forrest street, owner of the club, and other members of the club, but none of the men had ever seen either of the gunmen before and were able only to furnish descriptions.

Club members questioned identified themselevs as:

Charles Bell, 31, 75 Kearney avenue; John Williams, 23, 61 Kearney avenue; Arthur Collins, 23, 103 Ege avenue; Walter Douglass, 41, 589½ Bramhall avenue; James Dunbar, 31, 47 Orient avenue; Floyd Jackson, 40, 66 Virginia avenue; Charles Hawks, 25, 75 Pacific avenue, Newark; Walter Bryant, 29, 110 Clinton avenue; Anthony Thomson, 32, 113A Orient avenue; Thomas Fayer, 39, 111 Kearney avenue; Walter Lindsay, 24, 114 Kearney avenue; Russell Prioleau, 24, 81 Kearney avenue; Walter Dawson, 30, 519 Macon street, Brooklyn; Stanley Robinson, 46, 46 Orient avenue, and Elmer Melvin, 34, 107 Virginia avenue.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

KILLER SILENT ABOUT MOTIVE FOR SHOOTING

NOV 22 1941

Army Officials Plan Probe, But Give Case To Civil Police

FORT DIX, N. J. — Pvt. William G. Jones, 22, of 28 Mortimer street, Buffalo, N. Y., a member of Company B, 372nd Infantry Regiment, stationed here, shot and killed Sergt. James A. Sims, 30, of 509 North Michigan avenue, Atantic City, N. J., also a member of Company B, Saturday, November 15, some time between 6:30 and 7 a.m.

The weapon used was a Garand rifle .30 caliber. The shooting occurred as Sergeant Sims was leaving his room which is located at the end of the barracks.

It was stated that Private Jones, who was seated on his bunk in the barracks, called to the sergeant just as he was going out the main door, and, as the sergeant stopped and turned his head, fired a shot which struck him in the right side of the face. The sergeant died instantly.

Private Jones was held in the Post Guard House preliminarily. He was later turned over to the civil authorities for trial, as soldiers accused of the crimes of murder or rape are not tried by courts-martial in the continental United States in peace time.

A preliminary investigation is being conducted by Capt. Lewis E. Sussman, provost marshal, by order of the post commander, Col. C. M. Dowell, who has ordered an investigating board convened.

Lieut. Col. Alexander R. Davis, acting regimental commander of the 372nd, has also ordered a board, to ascertain the facts surrounding the case.

NOV 22 1941

Pvt. Jones is a selectee who had been transferred from Camp Croft, S. C., after his 13 weeks' basic training period, about five months ago.

Sergeant Sims had been with company B for the past 10 years as a national guardsman.

33-1941

NEW YORK

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

Shooting Affray Empties Trolley Car; One Killed

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

New York, June 26.—A shooting fray in a Harlem street car brought death today to Joseph Stancel, 34-year-old Negro barber, after he boarded the car and sat down next to his estranged wife Florence, also 34, in hopes of patching up their differences.

When his reconciliation attempt failed, Stancel drew a .38-caliber Spanish revolver. His wife grabbed it and Stancel fired, the shot flying wild into the side of the car. Patrolman Joseph Bluver happened to be in the street car at the time, en route to duty.

He tried to seize Stancel's revolver, only to have it pointed menacingly at him. Bluver drew his gun and fired two shots. One missed, but the other crashed into Stancel's neck, killing him almost immediately.

Fifty passengers, most of them Negroes, were terrorized when the bullets resounded like explosions through the car. The motorman stopped the car, opened the doors, and the passengers tumbled out in panic.

Stancel's wife told police they had been living apart and separated a week ago.

Gangster's Boast in Cop Killing Of 1932 Leads to 3 Indictments

Slaying of Moroso Solved and Case Is Clinched by Old East Side Photos

The idle boast of a gangster, gloating over his killings to another, brought to a remarkable climax today the nine-year-old murder of Patrolman Michael J. Moroso that has vexed detectives since 1932.

As a result of the unwitting revelation and a solid year and a half of effort by Detective John J. Morrissey and Louis A. Pagnucco, Assistant District Attorney, the grand jury today indicted three men for first-degree murder in the Moroso killing.

They are Angelo Mendez, 30, a Puerto Rican now in Great Meadows Prison serving 7½ to 15 years for robbery, and English Sterling, 30, a Negro of 301 E. 98th St. The name of the third man was not disclosed. Both of those named have long records for rape, drug and robbery offenses.

Solution Follows Boast.

When the presentation was made to General Sessions Judge Jonah J. Goldstein he was astonished as Mr. Pagnucco reviewed the case. According to the Assistant District Attorney, who said a score of material witnesses now were in custody, the solution came about in the manner of a modern thriller.

About two years ago a gangster from Hell's Kitchen met another from the Gas House district on the upper East Side. Their conversation, Mr. Pagnucco said, was about like this:

"Hell, we have a couple of killings over here almost every night. Killing don't mean anything in Hell's Kitchen. And when we don't kill 'em we cut 'em up."

Tip Given to Police.

"Is that so?" said the man from the Gas House district. "Listen, you dope. I know of a killing about six or seven years ago the cops ain't never gonna solve. We killed a cop over on 98th St. on the West Side one night and they still don't know nothing about it."

It happened that the gangster from Hell's Kitchen knew Detective Morrissey of the E. 104th St. station. He repeated the boast of the gangster to Morrissey and the detective asked him to point the man out.

After a year's search the man was located. It developed that he was a friend of the cop killer. He named the man, but Mr. Pagnucco was still hampered for lack of evidence.

Old Photos Clinch Case.

The neighborhood of the shooting—Second Ave. and 99th St.—had changed appreciably in the nine years since Moroso was slain. With Detective Morrissey, Mr. Pagnucco went through the files of the Triboro Bridge Authority which, they recalled, possessed a number of aerial photographs of the neighborhood, taken in anticipation of the construction of the bridge.

They selected several and began a round-up of some 200 potential witnesses, all of whom were examined. When their memories faltered, Mr. Pagnucco refreshed their recollection with the photographs of the district as it was at the time of the shooting.

Amazing, Says Count.

"We have now a complete story," Mr. Pagnucco told Judge Goldstein, "and an iron-clad case."

"It is truly amazing," said the court. "You people function like the Canadian Mounties."

Moroso was shot in the back by five men on the night of Dec. 8, 1932, a particularly brutal slaying in that he was not the policeman the gunmen were seeking. The man they wanted was Moroso's predecessor, who had been interfering with seval rackets operated by the gang. It was Moroso's first night in the precinct.

Communist Guilty In Police Stabbing

Jury Reaches Verdict in 7 Hours

After deliberating seven hours, a General Sessions jury today found Reginald Thomas, 41-year-old Negro Communist, of 18 W. 120th St., guilty of second degree assault in the stabbing of Policeman Daniel J. Dolan of the W. 123rd St. station during a street meeting five years ago.

The policeman, who only recently was able to leave a hospital, has been forced to retire because of his wounds. Judge John J. Freschi remanded Thomas to the Tombs for sentence Aug. 1.

During the trial Policeman Dolan stepped to the witness stand and exhibited the wound scars to the jury. He had been stabbed six times. He identified Thomas as the man who had stabbed him.

The policeman testified that when he ordered a Communist street meeting opposite 329 Lenox Ave. to be more orderly and quiet Thomas shouted, "To hell with the cops," precipitating a riot.

During the trial a witness for Thomas, Mrs. Louise Williams, Negro, 45, of Washington, died of heart disease in court.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

9-YEAR-OLD MURDER IS LAID TO THREE

2 Ex-Convicts and Unidentified Man Accused of Killing a Policeman in 1932

CLUE BARED BY GANGSTER

Persistent Work of Detective in Solving the Crime Is Praised by Court

Three men, two of them convicts, were indicted yesterday on a first-degree murder charge in the shooting of Patrolman Michael J. Moroso nearly nine years ago at Second Avenue and Ninety-ninth Street by five hired Negro assassins who mistook Moroso for another patrolman who had been harassing a vice and gambling ring in that vicinity.

The identity of the five slayers, two of whom have since died, remained a mystery until nearly two years ago, when a gangster confided to Detective John J. Morrissey of the East 104th Street Station that a Harlem gunman had revealed to him those involved in the slaying. Thereupon Morrissey, aided by Assistant District Attorney Louis A. Pagnucco, started to gather the evidence that ultimately brought about the indictment.

But it was not until after 1 o'clock yesterday morning that Assistant District Attorney Jacob J. Rosenblum, head of the Homicide Bureau, elicited from more recent witnesses evidince that enabled him to request the indictment.

Angelo (Carmelo) Mendez, 30 years old, a Puerto Rican, now serving a seven-year term in Great Meadows State Prison, is accused of being the actual killer. William (English Sterling) White, 30, serving a term in another prison, the name of which was withheld, and another man whose identity was concealed, are the co-defendants. Mendez and White are expected to be arraigned before Judge Jonah J. Goldstein in General Session today for pleading.

Details of the murder plot first were made public yesterday by the two prosecutors when the indictment was filed. They revealed to Judge Goldstein that in the interval since Detective Morrissey's informant gave the first clue to the slayers, Morrissey, who has been a detective thirty-four years and has nine citations for meritorius police work, had brought more than 200 persons to District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's office for questioning.

Many of the witnesses were women, and some of them, with a number of the men, were quietly committed to the House of Detention from General Sessions as material witnesses, to assure their presence at the trial of the three accused men.

Judge Goldstein expressed praise from the bench on the persistence of Detective Morrissey and Assistant District Attorney Pagnucco. The names of the patrolman for whom Patrolman Moroso was slain in mistake and the gangster that put Morrissey on the trail were withheld. Moroso bore a strong resemblance to the intended victim.

Mendez, the alleged killer, had been sentenced to Great Meadows Prison from General Sessions as a robber on Jan. 9, 1939. This was before the Harlem gangster boasted to the informant he knew the

gunman who had slain Moroso on the night of Dec. 8, 1932.

The boast was made when the informant and the Harlem gangster were in a heated discussion on the "toughness" of their respective gangs. Both Mendez and White have long police records. The prosecutors refused to reveal anything on those who are suspected of having hired them to do the killing.

Moroso was 30 and lived at 338 East Twenty-first Street. He was slain on his first tour of duty in the East 104th Street Precinct, having been shifted that day from another precinct.

Moroso had just crossed Second Avenue from the west to the east side when his interest was attracted by the sound of a whistle, and he turned west to trace its meaning. As he did that five men slipped up behind him from a nearby doorway. One shot him through the back and killed him.

Admits He Voted Conviction Of Man He Believes Innocent

An admission that he had voted with 11 other jurors for a verdict of guilty when he believed the defendant was innocent was made from the witness stand in General Sessions today by Eli Allison, 394 Riverside Dr. He was a member of the jury which on July convicted Charles Thomas, 41, Negro teacher and Communist, of having stabbed Patrolman Daniel J. Dolan at a Communist meeting in Lenox Av. on Aug. 12, 193[illegible].

"I believed then he was innocent," Mr. Allison told Judge John J. Freschi, "and I believe now he is innocent, and nothing will change my mind."

The jury was placed on the witness stand by counsel for the defense, who submitted a motion for a new trial when Thomas, convicted of assault in the second degree, came before the Court for sentencing.

Mr. Allison, a teacher of mathematics in the Franklin School explained he had cast his vote of guilty in deference to the judgment of the 11 other jurors and because "I didn't want a new trial." He protested that "while we were in the jury room deliberating I told the other members of the jury I thought he was innocent. . . . and that I couldn't vote him guilty."

"We were out from 4 o'clock until after 11 o'clock at night, and I only changed my vote after the matter had weighed heavily on my mind and I began to think that perhaps I was wrong," Mr. Allison testified.

The day following the verdict however, he wrote a letter to Judge Freschi. Assistant District Attorney Charles P. Grimes, in a gruelling cross-examination forced him to admit the letter was written "partly" in an attempt to "mitigate the severity of the punishment."

Boy, 12, Confesses Murder Near Park

The murder of James O'Connell, 15, who was stabbed to death by three Negro youths at Fifth Ave. and 99th St. last Saturday night, was solved today by the confession of a 12-year-old boy.

The attack on young O'Connell, who lived at 1518 Madison Ave., brought to a climax a long series of assaults and robberies on boys walking through or near the northern end of Central Park. Detectives John Morrissey and Pasillio Di Papolo, acting on information from an unrevealed source, picked up three Negro boys at their homes last night.

After the 12-year-old boy confessed that he stabbed O'Connell police charged the other two boys, who are older, with acting in concert with him in the slaying. The older boys were in the lineup today, and later all three were to be arraigned in Homicide Court.

Smiling Composer Admits 2d Killing

DEC 2 1941

Music Won Freedom, Now He Faces Life

Clinton F. Brewer, the Negro composer whose talent won him a parole while serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife, smiled merrily in General Sessions today as he admitted the murder of another woman.

The mild, bespectacled little killer spent 19 years in prison in Trenton for his first murder before he composed Stampede in G minor, revealing a talent that brought him prominent admirers and resulted in his parole and in his employment as an arranger for County Basie and the Columbia Recording Corp.

Then last September he stabbed to death Mrs. Wilhelmina Washington, 34, a Negress, in her flat at 474 W. 146th St. He was indicted on a charge of first degree murder, but today, with the consent of Francis E. Rivers, assistant district attorney, he was allowed to plead guilty to second degree murder.

DEC 2 1941

Judge Jonah J. Goldstein asked if he was pleading guilty of his own free will.

"I sure am," the beaming Brewer replied.

"Do you know what you are doing?"

"I sure do."

"Do you think you are doing the right thing?"

"I sure do," replied Brewer, who faces a possible sentence of 30 years to life, not to mention the rest of his Jersey life sentence.

Judge Goldstein remanded Brewer for sentence Dec. 22 and the smiling composer remarked: "Just before Christmas!"

33-1941

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

NEW YORK

Probe Slaying Of Negro Cavalryman At West Point

FEB 25 1941

WEST POINT, N. Y.—(ANP) — Complete details surrounding the killing of a private attached to the 10th cavalry over last week-end were being closely guarded by army officials. All that is admitted is that L. T. Miller, a first sergeant, was jailed by military authorities on a charge of technical homicide after it was said that he had shot and killed Private Paul Mayo of Oklahoma during an altercation that occurred while he was taking Mayo to the guardhouse.

FEB 25 1941

Miller's explanation of the incident, according to Major William Maglin, provost marshal of the military academy, was that a scuffle had taken place in an upper hallway of the medical detachment barracks in which Mayo had lashed at him with his uniform belt.

Temporarily subduing the private Sgt. Miller said he placed him under arrest and, arming himself, marched him off to the guardhouse. En route Mayo is said to have again turned on his escort swinging the buckle end of his belt as he did. Although he had fired two shots in the air, Miller claims that Mayo's persistence compelled him to fire at his prisoner twice.

Private Mayo was a native of Vian, Okla., and was to have been transferred to Camp Lee, Va., this week.

FEB 25 1941

Whether or not an army board of investigation convened immediately after the incident, was reported could not be determined.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Free 2 White Seamen Arrested For Death Of Plainclothesman

OCT. 11 1941

Two white seamen who fatally injured Patrolman James A. Schowers in a fight on September 23, were freed in Homicide Court on Thursday at the request of Assistant District Attorney William P. Sirignano, who told Magistrate Edmund A. Palmiere that the grand jury had failed to indict the sailors.

The men were Sula Hamalainen, 32, of the ss Rosemborg and Albert Fallstrom, 34, of the ss Comol Cuba.

At the time of their arrest, the sailors told police they thought that Schowers was a Negro hold-up man. Schowers, on plainclothes duty investigating prostitution in the 28th Precinct, was killed instantly when he followed the two men and a Negro woman up the stoop of 203 Fifth avenue. The patrolman followed the men and the woman on suspicion that an act of prostitution was about to be committed. When he questioned the sailors they tussled. The policeman was thrown back against the top railing which collapsed pitching him to his death 15 feet down to the areaway.

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

3 YOUTHS CONFESS HARLEM MURDER

Negroes Admit Taking Part in 'Mugging' Killing of Laundry Worker Nov. 6

ANOTHER HELD AS WITNESS

NOV 20 1941

Strip of Victim's Vest Bares Missing Suit in Pawnshop and Trap Is Sprung

Four Negro youths were arrested early yesterday and the previous night in connection with the murder of Joseph Keelan, 32-year-old laundry worker, in Morningside Park early on the morning of Nov. 6. This was one of the two killings that centered public attention on crime conditions in lower Harlem, the north part of Central Park and adjacent streets and parks.

Three of the prisoners confessed, according to the authorities, to taking part in a "mugging" hold-up of Keelan, a favorite method of robbery among Harlem's young criminals.

One of the trio admitted, after the two others accused him of it, the authorities said, that he had done the actual "mugging"—creeping up stealthily behind the victim, throwing an arm around his throat, sticking a knee in his back and pulling him over backward to the ground.

NOV 20 1941

This one was a hulking 18-year-old boy called Slim—6 feet 4 inches tall, built like a wrestler and with especially powerful arms. An autopsy showed that Keelan died of a fractured larynx.

It was disclosed by the confessions that the murder netted the trio only 42 cents—17 cents they found in their victim's pockets and 25 cents they received by selling the suit of clothes which they stripped from his body before leaving it half-clad in the mud and darkness of the park. The fourth prisoner, who paid the 25 cents, pawned the clothes for $1.

Painstaking Police Work

Thorough and painstaking work led to the arrests. There were no witnesses and no clues, but Detectives Everett Windisch, Edward Schnaible and James O'Brien of the West 100th Street station learned from Mrs. Keelan that when her husband left their home at 528 West 123d Street about midnight the night of the crime he did not wear the vest of his suit, a blue serge with a thin pencil stripe. They then cut the vest into small pieces, and more than twenty detectives, each with a sample of the vest, scoured the Harlem pawnshops and second-hand stores.

When they finally found the coat and trousers that matched the vest, in a pawnshop whose location they would not reveal, the police stationed a detective there night and day to wait for the man who had pawned them to return.

He came back to the shop Tuesday night with an overcoat for which he wanted $5. The pawnshop owner nodded in identification and the detective made the arrest. The prisoner identified himself as Louis Hill, 20 years old, of 2150 Seventh Avenue. According to the police, he admitted having pawned the coat and trousers and said he had bought them from Lee B. Wilkes, 17 years old, an errand boy, of 78 West 130th Street.

Wilkes was arrested leaving a theatre at Seventh Avenue and 126th Street. The police said he confessed to his part in the crime and gave them the name of his two companions. They found one of them, James Clarke, 21, a clerk, of 147 West 126th Street, in a Harlem poolroom. According to the police, Clarke also confessed and joined Wilkes in naming Edward (Slim) Lawrence, 18, of 226 West 144th Street, as the actual "mugger." Lawrence was already a prisoner in the Tombs, having been arrested and indicted for a holdup that occurred the day after Keelan's murder.

Reluctant to Give Statement

Assistant District Attorney Alfred J. Scotti, who questioned Lawrence in the Tombs, said he admitted the actual "mugging." At first the prisoner refused to talk, but kept asking if it would mean the "hot seat"—the electric chair—if he confessed. Mr. Scotti said he told him it probably would not, whereupon the prisoner made his statement.

From the confessions the police reconstructed the crime as follows:

Clarke, Wilkes and Lawrence started out the night of the murder to look for somebody to rob in or near Morningside Park. They spotted Keelan walking along the north side of West 123d Street, across the street from the north end of the park, and came up stealthily behind him. After Lawrence did the mugging the three dragged Keelan across the street into the darkness of the park.

While Lawrence kept his throttling hold on his prisoner, so that he could not cry out for help, Clarke belabored him with blows and Wilkes searched his pockets. According to Wilkes, when he reported he could find only 17 cents, Lawrence and Clarke became so enraged that they knocked Keelan down and began kicking him about from head to foot. Although Keelan kept pleading for mercy and saying he had no money, they kept this up until he became quiet.

Stripping the body of its coat and trousers, the trio left the park, but waited in an automobile near by until the pawnshops opened. Then they found they could not pawn the suit because it was so muddy from the wet ground, resulting from rain earlier that night, on which they had beaten and kicked their victim in their insensate rage, that no dealer would accept it. Finally, according to Wilkes, the other two tossed him the suit contemptuously and told him he could have it.

Wilkes later sold the clothes to Hill who cleaned them and pawned them.

Party at Keelan Home

Mrs. Keelan told the police that there had been a party at her house early the night of the murder. About midnight, she said, Keelan left to escort May Harris of 378 West 125th Street and Catherine Bradley of 121 La Salle Street to their homes. She said he had only 50 cents with him at the time, but the women told police Keelan had treated them to several glasses of beer in bars on their way home. They said he had left them about 4 A. M.

Lawrence was taken before Judge Jonah J. Goldstein in the Court of General Sessions. His $7,500 bail in his previous case, in which he was arrested with another man and two women, was canceled and he was held without bail. He was then remanded to the Tombs to await grand jury action in the Keelan case. Judge John J. Freschi held Hill in $10,000 bail as a material witness.

NOV 20 1941

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Demonstrators Kept Out Of Court As 3 Face Murder Charges

NOV 29 1941

A detail of 75 uniformed policemen and detectives under Inspector William O'Brien on Monday afternoon prevented a demonstration at the new Criminal Courts Building, 100 Centre street, by some 200 Harlemites during the arraignment of three Negro youths on homicide charges in the fatal stabbing of James O'Connell, 15, at Fifth avenue and 99th street on November 5. The case was adjourned until Thursday, however, as it is now being presented to the grand jury.

NOV 29 1941

As result of the precautions, the courtroom proceedings were brief with Magistrate Robert F. Mahoney granting the adjournment after Assistant District Attorney Paul F. Reilly had explained the status of the case.

The three youthful prisoners are Jerome Dore, 12, 230 East 99th street; Norman Davis, 16, 205 East 99th street, and Robert Allen, 16, 1595 Lexington avenue.

O'Connell died in Mount Sinai Hospital of stab wounds following a fight with three Negro youths.

The crowd at the court building appeared in response to handbills which were distributed in Harlem urging residents to pack the courtroom during arraignment of the three youths who were described as "victims of a social system in which Jim Crow is King."

New York Times
New York, N. Y.

3 MORE IN HARLEM INDICTED AS KILLERS

NOV 27 1941

First-Degree Murder Charged to Trio for 'Mugging' of Keelan, Who Had Only 17c

BOY, 13, IS SENT TO TOMBS

Too 'Tough' for Children's Aid —Police Guard Against Negro Demonstration in Court

Following the indictment of three Negro boys for murder the previous day, three more young Negroes were indicted for murder yesterday. The six prisoners were accused of the two killings early this month that brought about the present investigation of crime conditions and extra policing in lower Harlem, north Central Park, and adjacent streets and parks.

The grand jury yesterday charged first degree murder against Lawrence (Slim) Edwards, 18 years old, formerly referred to as Edward Lawrence; Lee Edward Wilkes, 17, and James Clark, 21, all residents of Harlem, for the "mugging" and strangling to death of Joseph Keelan, 32, a laundry worker, in Morningside Park early on the morning of Nov. 6.

Louis Hill, 20, a Negro, is being held as a material witness in $10,000 bail. Picked up Tuesday night as a material witness, Angelica Scott, 21, Negro domestic, was freed yesterday after questioning at the District Attorney's office.

NOV 27 1941

Got 17 Cents from Victim

The trio charged with murder, all of whom have confessed, according to the police, got only 17 cents from Keelan's pockets, plus 25 cents for which they sold his coat and trousers to Hill. Slim, who is 6 feet 4 inches tall and powerfully built, is said to have confessed to the actual "mugging."

The accused killers will be arraigned for pleading today before Judge John J. Freschi in the Court of General Sessions under strong police guard.

Fifty policemen were stationed in and about the Criminal Courts Building yesterday for the arraignment before Judge Freschi of the three Negroes indicted for the murder of 15-year-old James O'Connell at Fifth Avenue and Ninety-ninth Street on the night of Nov. 1. The heavy police guard followed the discovery that circulars had been distributed in Harlem urging "citizens of Harlem" to "jam the court room" and protest against "persecution" of the three Negro youths.

About a hundred Negroes gathered in the Criminal Courts Building yesterday, but were kept on the ground floor and not allowed to go to Judge Freschi's court room on the eleventh floor. Even relatives of the prisoners were not allowed in the court room.

NOV 27 1941

Boy, 13, Held in the Tombs

Judge Freschi, who sent the trio back to the Tombs pending pleading tomorrow, revealed that the Children's Aid Society had refused to take Jerome Dore, 12-year-old Negro charged with the actual stabbing of the O'Connell boy, because it did not want other children in its care to have to associate with him. According to the police, the Dore boy is 5 feet 6½ inches tall, weighs 135 pounds, is strongly built and has the reputation of being "the toughest boy on the block," despite his youth, in the East Ninety-ninth Street neighborhood, where he lives.

In sending the boy to the Tombs, Judge Freschi suggested that he be segregated from the other prisoners. He is the youngest person to be committed to the new City Prison and is one of the youngest to be charged with murder here in years.

NOV 27 1941

Dore's attorney, Alfred Weisstein, asked for a week's delay, and Morris Levy, attorney for Norman O. Davis, 16, and Philip Watson, Negro attorney for Clemon Allen, 16, asked for ten days' delay. The court granted forty-eight hours' delay to all three.

Dore is charged only with second-degree murder because of his age, while the others are charged with first-degree murder and attempted robbery.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
August 3, 1941

Society's Part

T287

"Another Nance" reads in substance the decision of Governor Broughton to commute the death sentence of a 17-year-old Negro murderer to life imprisonment.

It was as a boy of 16 that the young Negro killed. Loose on the streets, neglected, no work to do, run too many legions of juvenile delinquents of his type.

"Society has an obligation here." There is a danger that some of us will use this statement too frequently to mitigate and excuse the felon's acts. But say as often as you please that the way of the transgressor is hard and that the law must be stern, we cannot escape the truth that neglect and underprivilege are the breeders of disease and the parents of crime.

Yet neglect is not always that of society. That all bad criminals do not come from the lowliest homes is a fact that testifies to failure of home training and discipline in higher spheres.

The most effective work of the home and of society cannot come after the thief has stolen, the robber has held up someone, and the killer has tasted blood. It must reach far and beyond this stage in the earliest days of a child's life. The salvation of the individual rests upon home and community atmosphere and opportunity.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Policies Remain Same At Bragg, Reporter Finds

Citizens Seek To Soak All Men Wearing Uniform

FORT BRAGG, N. C.—(ANP)—After the tragic killings involving white M.P.'s and Negro soldiers encamped at Fort Bragg, the Public Relations Bureau is launching a huge propaganda program there. This program is without doubt attempting to cover up unfavorable publicity uncovered by various news comments of eastern white magazines and newspapers.

In the Fort Bragg propaganda setup there is a coast to coast radio broadcast from the Fort every Thursday night from six until seven o'clock. The officials in charge always include an act from one of the Fort's Negro Units to have civilian listeners believe that Fort Bragg's Negro soldiers are having a wonderful time.

SEEK LOWER TICKETS

In another instance an announcement was made that white soldiers would be offered tickets to college football games at half price. Also they announced that they were contacting officials of A. and T. College, Shaw university and Fayetteville State Teacher's college to make similar arrangements for Negro soldiers of Fort Bragg.

It was further stated that Military Police would be assigned to all games. Negro soldiers are protesting such a move unless the Military Police used are Negroes.

In its usual manner policies remain the same at Fort Bragg according to reports of men stationed here.

One soldier stated that bus transportation for Negro troops is worse than ever. Instead of one bus every hour, buses are now running on the average of one bus for Negro troops every two hours. Also troops having overnight passes are sure to be late for the six o'clock morning reveille by depending on the bus. The first Negro bus from Fayetteville, 9 miles away, arrives at 8 a.m. There is a "revillee bus" for white troops arriving at the Fort at 5:30 a.m. allowing them ample time to make this formation.

NEGROES REMOVED

In the 16th Battalion of the Field Artillery Replacement Center the Post Exchange formerly employed five Negro civilians clerks with a white manager. Two days after the bus tragedy five white clerks replaced them and three Negroes were demoted to porters.

Also noted were instructions to all mess sergeants to lock up all meat cleavers and butcher knives in mess halls to make sure Negro troops would be unarmed in case of any racial outbreak.

In a recent interview with several Negro citizens of Fayetteville, where heroic Pvt. Ned Turman met his death, this writer found many of them not interested and indifferent about the affair.

One Fayetteville cab driver said, "It don't matter a d....n to me, I am only interested in getting more cab runs myself."

A cafe operator when asked what did he think of the affair, answered, "To be honest, I'll tell you I don't care much about northern Negroes myself."

Prices in Fayetteville's Negro enterprises were found to be parallel to prices in New York. A 10c bottle of beer costs 15c, hot dogs and hamburgers are 10c, and the most talked about extreme prices were cab fares.

CABMAN ASKS QUESTION

The writer climbed into one of the brightly painted cabs and the driver asked, "Are you a civilian or soldier?" Not waiting for an answer he stated, "I just wanted to know because we always charge more for soldiers because soldiers are not permanent as civilians and we soak 'em whenever we get a chance."

After questioning soldiers concerning prices, a soldier stated he missed the last bus to the Fort the night before and attempted to find lodging at one of the better lodging houses and was forced to pay $3 for a single bed or if he was found on Fayetteville streets after 1 a.m., he would have been jailed by white Military Police.

Following the recent bus tragedy many Negro troops dressed in civilian clothing to avoid the constant dogging of white Military Policemen. This was soon noticed by the white M.P.'s and thereafter all buses carrying Negro troops were stopped and all passengers were questioned whether they were civilians or soldiers. They were asked to show their socks or underclothing. Most of them were wearing G. I. (Government Issus) socks and underclothing. Reports were that these that were found were made to dismount from the bus and walk back to their units.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

White Farmer Gets 20 Years For Killing Negro Tenant

OCT 11 1941

HENDERSON, N. C.—Claudia Wilson, 31-year-old Townsville farmer, submitted in Vance Superior Court today to second degree murder for the slaying of Oscar Mitchell, Negro tenant on the farm and was sentenced by Judge W. C. Harris to not less than 20 and not more than 30 years at hard labor in State's Prison.

TRIAL SHORT

The case came to a rather abrupt, though not totally unexpected conclusion 25 minutes after the morning session began, and after several character witnesses had been introduced by both sides. When State and defense had rested, Judge Harris sent the jury out, and the plea for the defendant was made by A. A. Bunn, his counsel. It was accepted by the court, though Solicitor E. R. Tyler refused to recommend it or to concur.

It was understood the defense was ready to submit Wednesday afternoon, but the State pressed for a jury decision, contending it had a strong case of first degree murder, for which Wilson was being tried.

Wilson's plea in justification for slaying Mitchell, which he admitted, was self-defense. He contended he shot only after Mitchell was advancing on him with a stick, after the Negro had cursed him. State witneses had said Wilsn asserted the day of the killing, August 1, that he killed the tenant farmer because he cursed him and his mother.

It was believed to be the longest sentence ever given a white man in this county for killing a Negro and perhaps the first time here a white man has been tried for his life for such a crime.

The jury that was sitting in the case, and which was kept together all night, was immediately discharged after submission and sentencing of the prisoner. The jury was selected at noon Wednesday after two and a half hours, after fifty-two veniremen had been examined, forty-six of them from a special venire of fifty called for the purpose.

The only important testimony directly bearing on the actual slaying which was presented in the brief period before the case was ended this morning was that of Mailor Peoples.

He said Wilson had told him he did not take a drink the morning of the killing until after the slaying, and that one of the occasions when Wilson made this statement was in jail several days later, when he had plenty of time to sober up.

The prisoner was quoted as saying he shot because Mitchell had cursed him and his mother, and that no mention was made of the pole, Wilson claimed in his testimony Wednesday afternoon Mitchell had in his hand in approaching for an attack.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

OCT 16 1941

FATHER GETS 25 YEARS IN SLAYING OF HIS SON

LOUISBURG, N. C.—(ANP)—Charlie Whitley was sentenced to 25 years in state prison Wednesday for the shotgun slaying of his 19-year-old son, Tom, in an argument over a hunting dog. Sentence was passed by Judge C. Everett Thompson in superior court here.

Through court-appointed counsel, Whitley pleaded guilty to second degree murder. Witnessing the shooting, which occurred in September, were Whitley's aged mother and two sons, Hoover and J. C. Whitley.

CLEMENCY DENIED UNION MURDERER

Luther Morrow to Die Today; Roland Wescott of Wilmington Gets Stay

Governor Broughton yesterday granted a reprieve to Roland Wescott, 20-year-old Wilmington youth who was scheduled to die by gas at central prison today for the murder of his sweetheart, Mildred Lee.

The Governor, however, decided not to intervene in favor of Luther Morrow, 26-year-old Union County Negro, and Morrow will die in the gas chamber today for the slaying of his wife, Lottie Bell Morrow.

A reprieve was granted in the Wescott case, the Governor said, "in order that certain phases of the case may be investigated and in order to get expert opinion on the mentality of Wescott. Under State law, his new death date was set for January 9.

Paroles Commissioner Edwin Gill said evidence in the Morrow case showed that Morrow deliberately shot his wife at the home of her mother when she fell down while fleeing from him.

The Rev. L. A. Watts, prison chaplain, said he informed the Negro that his last chance for mercy had passed and that Morrow said, "If I did it, I don't know anything about it. But I am satisfied. I have a great deal of faith in God."

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
February 2, 1941

Color In Killings

In Columbus County, just 10 days after he had killed another Negro, a Negro killer was sentenced to death. Regardless of how people may feel about capital punishment, the case reemphasizes the increasing importance attached by courts and juries to the killings of Negroes by Negroes. Once in the South such murders were treated with a special leniency. Negro killers of members of their own race were apt to be given sentences no longer than those given for petty larceny. Indeed, in 1937 in North Carolina, according to W. J. Cash, associate editor of *The Charlotte News*, the conviction and execution of a Negro for the murder of a Negro was the first such stern punishment in such a killing in 20 years.

Obviously such a leniency in the punishment of Negroes for crimes against their fellows was as ugly a species of white injustice as any special white fury against Negroes guilty of crimes against whites. By minimizing the importance of Negro murders, the courts and juries reduced to a minimum the security of law-abiding Negroes against criminals of their own color. Also it preserved killers who threatened the safety of both white people and black.

Murder, as our courts seem to be beginning to understand, is murder and there is no place where any color line can be drawn in dealing with it. Critics of the South have often charged that the Southern courts were guilty of undue and unjust severity in dealing with Negro criminals. Sometimes they have been. But the greatest injustice to the Negro in our criminal courts has more often been an unjust leniency to Negro criminals when their crimes involved only members of their own race. That was an injustice which was kind to Negro criminals at the expense of the decent Negro people. Both white people and Negroes will be safer when murderers are treated as murderers should be regardless of their race and regardless also of the race of their victims.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
February 12, 1941

JUNGLE LIFE.

Jungle life is savage, filled with murder. We have too many jungles in Charlotte. We record the fourth murder of the year and become very indignant and want somebody to do something about it.

There was once a law against vagrancy, intended to make people work. It had double benefits. It made them work and kept their minds from murder. It would be interesting to know how many people in Charlotte, the knots of people congregating all day and all night in the Negro sections, do not work.

There is a great deal more work than was the case a year ago. The defense program has stimulated private industry as well as making direct demands for labor, yet there are still plenty of able-bodied men with apparently nothing to do.

The great majority, practically all, of Charlotte's Negro population is hard working, law abiding, self-respecting and causes no trouble whatever. The relations between the races here are excellent. But we still have a few jungles, with tooth and claw and pistol and knife and ice pick methods in vogue.

Smithfield, N. C. Herald
January 31, 1941

Double Standard As Between Races

Charlotte has acquired a not so enviable reputation as a city of frequent Negro murders. Not only the high rate of killings but the crime situation in general among the Negroes reached such appalling proportions that a delegation of prominent Negroes recently appeared before the city council to see what steps could be taken to curb crime among the members of their race.

Dick Young, the city hall reporter for the Charlotte News, mentioned the appearance of the delegation before the council in a radio broadcast and a lady called the radio station to make a suggestion regarding reduction of crimes.

Reporter Young, in a column he conducts in the News, related what the lady had suggested:

"She said that if something could be done to make Negroes get married, a step would be taken in the right direction. She went on to explain that Negroes 'take up' together, live thus for a while, after which the man pulls up and departs, leaving behind several illegitimate children. The mother has to get out and work, with the children having no supervision and growing up in idleness and crime."

Reporter Young related that the more he thought about what the lady had suggested the more he was convinced she "had put her finger on an important social weakness—one that perhaps is a strong factor in widespread crime among the Negroes."

Then he placed the responsibility for solution of the problem, in these words:

"If this illegitimacy is contributing to crime among Negroes (and I don't believe we are far wrong in assuming that it is) then there is a big problem to be solved. It is then a problem for the Negroes themselves—moral and spiritual leaders among the race have a well-defined and difficult job cut out for them. It means that moral sense must be quickened and developed among those who are now given to loose and careless relations. It means that that those who now dwell on a low moral plane must be lifted up to the heights of greater spiritual values—spiritual values that must be embraced by the individual. There are many evidences of advancement among the Negroes — they have already come a long way in the past three-quarters of a century. But there is still room for social and moral improvement. And that is the task of the Negro leaders themselves."

The Charlotte columnist is correct as far as he goes. But the responsibility does not wholly fall upon the Negro race to eliminate loose living among its members. The white race, because it has made itself the ruling race, has an equal if not greater responsibility and by its mere attitude toward immorality among Negroes can sow the seeds for correction of the problem that Dick Young writes about.

Members of the white race who are insistent upon high standards of moral conduct for white men and women too often turn aside evidences of loose living and illegitimacy among Negro couples with humorous comment that expresses their belief in a double standard as between races.

If well regulated home life is essential to the preservation of a stable society, it cannot be logically contended that this essential does not apply to men and women whose color is black. All of us, white and black, are a part of the same social order.

So the Herald, published in a county with a fairly large Negro population and in a community where the problem of crime among Negroes is not wholly unlike the problem that Charlotte confronts, hastens to supplement Reporter Young's observation with the comment that we of the ruling race by

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
February 2, 1941

Color In Killings

In Columbus County, just 10 days after he had killed another Negro, a Negro killer was sentenced to death. Regardless of how people may feel about capital punishment, the case reemphasizes the increasing importance attached by courts and juries to the killings of Negroes by Negroes. Once in the South such murders were treated with a special leniency. Negro killers of members of their own race were apt to be given sentences no longer than those given for petty larceny. Indeed, in 1937 in North Carolina, according to W. J. Cash, associate editor of *The Charlotte News*, the conviction and execution of a Negro for the murder of a Negro was the first such stern punishment in such a killing in 20 years.

Obviously such a leniency in the punishment of Negroes for crimes against their fellows was as ugly a species of white injustice as any special white fury against Negroes guilty of crimes against whites. By minimizing the importance of Negro murders, the courts and juries reduced to a minimum the security of law-abiding Negroes against criminals of their own color. Also it preserved killers who threatened the safety of both white people and black.

Murder, as our courts seem to be beginning to understand, is murder and there is no place where any color line can be drawn in dealing with it. Critics of the South have often charged that the Southern courts were guilty of undue and unjust severity in dealing with Negro criminals. Sometimes they have been. But the greatest injustice to the Negro in our criminal courts has more often been an unjust leniency to Negro criminals when their crimes involved only members of their own race. That was an injustice which was kind to Negro criminals at the expense of the decent Negro people. Both white people and Negroes will be safer when murderers are treated as murderers should be regardless of their race and regardless also of the race of their victims.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
February 12, 1941

JUNGLE LIFE.

Jungle life is savage, filled with murder. We have too many jungles in Charlotte. We record the fourth murder of the year and become very indignant and want somebody to do something about it.

There was once a law against vagrancy, intended to make people work. It had double benefits. It made them work and kept their minds from murder. It would be interesting to know how many people in Charlotte, the knots of people congregating all day and all night in the Negro sections, do not work.

There is a great deal more work than was the case a year ago. The defense program has stimulated private industry as well as making direct demands for labor, yet there are still plenty of able-bodied men with apparently nothing to do.

The great majority, practically all, of Charlotte's Negro population is hard working, law abiding, self-respecting and causes no trouble whatever. The relations between the races here are excellent. But we still have a few jungles, with tooth and claw and pistol and knife and ice pick methods in vogue.

Smithfield, N. C. Herald
January 31, 1941

Double Standard As Between Races

Charlotte has acquired a not so enviable reputation as a city of frequent Negro murders. Not only the high rate of killings but the crime situation in general among the Negroes reached such appalling proportions that a delegation of prominent Negroes recently appeared before the city council to see what steps could be taken to curb crime among the members of their race.

Dick Young, the city hall reporter for the Charlotte News, mentioned the appearance of the delegation before the council in a radio broadcast and a lady called the radio station to make a suggestion regarding reduction of crimes.

Reporter Young, in a column he conducts in the News, related what the lady had suggested:

"She said that if something could be done to make Negroes get married, a step would be taken in the right direction. She went on to explain that Negroes 'take up' together, live thus for a while, after which the man pulls up and departs, leaving behind several illegitimate children. The mother has to get out and work, with the children having no supervision and growing up in idleness and crime."

Reporter Young related that the more he thought about what the lady had suggested the more he was convinced she "had put her finger on an important social weakness—one that perhaps is a strong factor in widespread crime among the Negroes."

Then he placed the responsibility for solution of the problem, in these words:

"If this illegitimacy is contributing to crime among Negroes (and I don't believe we are far wrong in assuming that it is) then there is a big problem to be solved. It is then a problem for the Negroes themselves—moral and spiritual leaders among the race have a well-defined and difficult job cut out for them. It means that moral sense must be quickened and developed among those who are now given to loose and careless relations. It means that that those who now dwell on a low moral plane must be lifted up to the heights of greater spiritual values—spiritual values that must be embraced by the individual. There are many evidences of advancement among the Negroes — they have already come a long way in the past three-quarters of a century. But there is still room for social and moral improvement. And that is the task of the Negro leaders themselves."

The Charlotte columnist is correct as far as he goes. But the responsibility does not wholly fall upon the Negro race to eliminate loose living among its members. The white race, because it has made itself the ruling race, has an equal if not greater responsibility and by its mere attitude toward immorality among Negroes can sow the seeds for correction of the problem that Dick Young writes about.

Members of the white race who are insistent upon high standards of moral conduct for white men and women too often turn aside evidences of loose living and illegitimacy among Negro couples with humorous comment that expresses their belief in a double standard as between races.

If well regulated home life is essential to the preservation of a stable society, it cannot be logically contended that this essential does not apply to men and women whose color is black. All of us, white and black, are a part of the same social order.

So the Herald, published in a county with a fairly large Negro population and in a community where the problem of crime among Negroes is not wholly unlike the problem that Charlotte confronts, hastens to supplement Reporter Young's observation with the comment that we of the ruling race by

our attitude and actions cannot escape our responsibility to help the leaders of the Negro race lift the standards of home life among Negroes to a higher level where crime-breeding tendencies would be less likely to develop.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

N. C. SHOOTING STORY CALLED 'INCREDIBLE'

Chicago Alumni Groups Demand Investigation Of Ft. Bragg Tragedy

MAR 15 1941

A request for a federal investigation of the mysterious shooting of Ellis Reed Jr., in Fayetteville, N. C., Thursday, March 6, was made Sunday by the United Alumni Associations of Chicago. MAR 15 1941

Reed, a 22-year-old Chicago youth, and a member of the Seventy-seventh Coast Artillery stationed at Fort Bragg, N. C., was shot to death by Clayton Britt, white, 17-year-old grandson of a former Fayetteville chief of police. The shooting, according to reports made to police by young Britt, came after Reed had forced his way into the Britt home.

Coroner W. C. Davis stated that the Britts told him Reed came onto the porch of their home, knocking over a keg of nails. When Mrs. Britt opened the door to investigate, they said, he pushed her aside and entered the house. MAR 15 1941

The men persuaded him to leave, then Reed turned back but kept going when warned off, walked about 25 yards and turned back again. Clayton in the meantime, had procured a shotgun. Fourteen buckshots struck the man in the back, the coroner said.

According to the Britts, all this time Reed had not said a word. They said he was not drinking, but appeared to be doped. However, the local police chief said other witnesses told him Reed had been drinking.

Young Britt was released on bond of $500 pending the inquest.

Young Reed, a native of Atlanta, Ga., had lived in Chicago with his parents from 1922 until Aug. 15, 1940, when he enlisted in the army

MAR 15 1941

MAR 15 1941

ELLIS REED

and was assigned to the artillery unit at Fort Bragg. He was a former student at Wendell Phillips high school.

Funeral services for the slain youth were held Tuesday at Metropolitan funeral home in Chicago following arrival of the body Sunday from the South.

Reed's father, a stockyards worker, said that other than a telegram informing him that his son had been shot to death, he knew nothing of the tragedy. No explanation of the circumstances, he said, had been made to him by either military or civil authorities.

J. E. Webb, president of the United Alumni associations, said Tuesday night that the reports made of the shooting of the Reed boy were "incredible." "It is outright brutal and unprovoked murder," he said, "and we here in Chicago intend to get to the bottom of it."

The entire matter, he said, has been turned over to the New York office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with a request that they investigate it. MAR 15 1941

Reed's father said that in letters from his son, he had learned that members of the regiment were in the habit of going to Fayetteville, about 10 miles from Fort Bragg, weekly for recreation and shopping.

In his letters home, he said, his son often spoke of the discrimination he encountered in Fayetteville and of the unfriendly attitude of white residents of the city.

The Reed home in Chicago is located at 4117 Vincennes avenue.

RE-ARREST WHITE YOUTH IN KILLING OF FT. BRAGG MAN

Fayettevill, N. C.- Clayton Britt, 17-year-old white youth whom a grand jury failed to indict for the March 5 slaying of Private Ellis Reed, Jr., Fort Bragg soldier, was re-arrested, last week, and ordered held under $1000 bond for the next term of court by Superior Court Judge [illegible] Nimocks.

Reed was killed by a shotgun blast, allegedly fired by young Britt, because of his reluctance in leaving the vicinity of the Britt home about 11:45 the fatal night.

SHOT IN BACK

He is said to have entered the home by the side door, brushing Britt's mother aside, and to have turned around twice as if to come back, after Britt and his father persuaded him to leave the house. Most of the shot entered his back when he was about 25 feet from the house.

Released from his original $500 bond after the grand jury's refusal to indict him earlier in the week, young Britt was re-arrested Thursday on a bench warrant issued by Judge Nimocks based on an affidavit signed by one of the investigating officers.

Source: Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland
3/22/41

Asheville, N. C., Times
May 12, 1941

CAMPAIGN FOR FUNDS BEGUN BY 200 NEGROES

Mass Meeting Is Held In Interest Of Prosecuting Hughes Slaying Case.

More than 200 Asheville negroes attended a mass meeting at Burton street school yesterday to launch a campaign to raise funds for prosecuting the slayer of Robert Hughes, 18-year-old negro who was shot to death May 4 on Vermont avenue.

A permanent organization, to be known as the Buncombe County Colored Defense league, was formed, and contributions or subscriptions totaling $85 were reported made.

E. W. Pearson was named president of the league, which was organized under auspices of the North Carolina Negro Improvement association. Other officers named were M. C. Long, first vice-president; Thomas McMickens, second vice-president; Jeff Friday, treasurer and Helen Smith, secretary.

The group adopted a resolution expressing appreciation of interest shown by the West Asheville Men's club in the case. It will meet again on May 18.

Three white youths are being held in jail and another is being sought in connection with the shooting of Hughes.

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
May 10, 1941

NEGROES PLAN TO PROSECUTE YOUTH'S SLAYER

A meeting will be held by negroes at Pearson hall, 3 Buffalo street, West Asheville, at 5 p. m. tomorrow to consider plans for employing counsel to prosecute persons responsible for the fatal shooting of Robert Hughes, 16, negro, on Vermont avenue extension last Sunday night.

A similar discussion was held last night at the negro Masonic Temple, 44 Market street, by the Buncombe county Negro Laymen's Defense league under the auspices of the North Carolina Negro Improvement association.

Chief of Police Dermid said that he understood one attorney had already been employed to prosecute those responsible for the killing of Hughes.

Burnos Spurlin, wanted in connection with the shooting, has not yet been apprehended. Three youths who are alleged to have been with Spurlin were arrested shortly after Hughes was killed. They are Gordon Jones, Winford Holder and Lloyd McHone.

33-1941

NORTH CAROLINA

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MAY 31 1941

POLICE LOCATE WHITE HOODLUM WHO SHOT YOUTH

ASHEVILLE, N. C., May 29—Traced by local police authorities to the home of an uncle in Bristol, Tenn., Burnos Sherlin, young Asheville white man, was arrested there Sunday night and has been returned here to answer to a charge of fatally shooting Robert Hughes, 18-year-old youth, on the night of May 3.

After engaging in an argument with the youth on Haywood road, Sherlin and three other young white men accompanying him later got in an automobile and went in search of Hughes, whom they finally located walking along Vermont avenue, less than a block from his home, with a girl. All four got out of the car, and one of the group opened fire with a rifle. The first bullet fired pierced the youth's heart, killing him instantly.

All of the young white men were picked up later by police with the exception of Sherlin, who fled. The three arrested, who are still being detained by police, insisted the shots were fired by Sherlin, who, since his arrest, is said to have admitted he did the shooting. He was taken into custody of a warrant sworn out on recommendation of a coroner's jury, which found Hughes had been killed by Sherlin and recommended he be bound over without bond to await grand jury action.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

JUN 1 1941

Ashcraft Employed Negro Boy To Kill Wife, Joyner Says

Sheriff Claims Confession By Husband In Mysterious Raleigh Slough Case

'FAMILY DIFFICULTIES' ADVANCED AS MOTIVE

Not Guilty Plea Is Entered By The Accused

(Pictures On Page 13)

By DAVE M'CONNELL

E. E. Ashcraft, 44-year-old drag line operator, has confessed that he hired a negro laborer to murder his wife, Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft, Sheriff Guy Joyner said yesterday in announcing the solution of the mysterious Raleigh slough slaying.

Ashcraft and the negro, John Ware, 20, were charged with first degree murder and arraigned at 8 o'clock yesterday morning before Squire Hugh Magevney.

Negro Admits Slaying

The negro admitted his part in the brutal killing, while Ashcraft entered a formal plea of not guilty. Both are in Shelby County Jail.

Sheriff Joyner gave "family trouble" as the motive for the killing. He added that the autopsy on Mrs. Ashcraft's body showed her organs contained a large amount of drugs often used in sleeping medicines.

It also was learned yesterday that there had been a party at the Ashcraft home at 3520 Stanton Road the night of June 4. Mrs. Ashcraft's body was found floating face down in a slough near the new Raleigh Bridge the next afternoon. Her husband, at first, told officers his wife had left to drive to her mother's home at Adolphus, Ky. He said she left at 3:30 a.m. on June 5.

The announcement of the case's solution climaxed 10 days of intensive investigation by staffs of Sheriff Joyner and Atty. Gen. Will Gerber.

Sheriff Makes Statement

It came in the form of a brief prepared statement, in which the sheriff said:

"The murder of Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft has been solved. E. E. Ashcraft, her husband, has admitted that he hired a negro by the name of John Ware, alias Tom Ware, to kil her.

"John Ware has made a statement in which he admits his participation in the murder.

"Ever since the commission of this crime, the sheriffs office, in co-operation with the attorney general's office, has worked day and night in an effort to solve this murder. Deputies Key and Becker of the sheriff's homicide squad, associated with Asst. Atty. Gen. Battle and Bob Ezzell, investigator of the attorney general's office, have worked tirelessly on this case and they deserve a lot of credit."

Details Not Revealed

The sheriff declined further comment on details of the case, declining to reveal where Mrs. Ashcraft was slain and how her body was dumped into the lonely slough.

Bit by bit, however, the story of the slaying, starting with the party at the Ashcraft home, and ending with her being bludgeoned and tossed into the slough, has been put together.

Investigators said Ashcraft had been planning to "do away with his wife" for several months after family difficulties arose.

Ware, who lived on Oreole Street, near Chelsea, at one time worked under Ashcraft on a construction jjob and agreed to take part in his former boss' plot to kill Mrs. Ashcraft, according to investigators.

They said Ashcraft reached his decision to kill his wife when she announced her intentions of visiting her mother in Kentucky. A party was arranged. Mrs. Ashcraft already had told her neighbors that she planned to leave at 2:30 a.m., on the drive to Nashville and Adolphus.

During the party, Dr. D. T. Morris, proprietor of the nearby Arrow Drug Store, said Mrs. Ashcraft called two times to order "chasers," then to change the order to a different brand.

It was in these drinks that investigators believe the sleeping medicine was given Mrs. Ahscraft. It was potent enough to make it unsafe for her to drive, physicians say.

The autopsy shows she was beaten on the head by a weapon similar to a stout stick. Her skull was cracked and a hole the size of a silver dollar found in the back of the crown.

Scene Not Known

Not fixed as yet by the sheriff's office is the actual scene of the killing. Previously, Sheriff Joyner announced Mrs. Ashcraft could not have been killed either at the csene where her body was found or in the Ashcraft home on Stanton Road as her head wounds would have left blood stains.

Apparently, she was taken to a lonely spot on the route between Stanton Road and the Raleigh Bridge slough.

Shortly after Mrs. Ashcraft's body was taken from the slough by deputies, her husband was taken to th esheriff's office for questioning. Then he declared:

"I never dreamed that she wouldn't be all right—that she couldn't take care of herself."

In his statements at that time he told Sheriff Joyner and investigators that his wife had left home at 3:30 a.m.

Told of Departure

"I started the motor for her," he told reporters. "She sat in the car a while and warmed up the motor. Then she said, 'Well, I'd better be going now.' I said goodby. She said, "I'll write you after I get to mother's.' "

Further investigation showed that her abandoned car was seen by Charles Simpson, mailing room employe of The Commercial Appeal, just 10 minutes after the time Ashcraft claimed he saw his wife off."

It was this time element that sent investigators on the trail of Ashcraft and into an intensive hunt for a negro who was seen prowling around her abandoned car shortly after the time she was reported by her husband to have left home.

But Ashcraft clung to his statement through two subsequent sessions with Sheriff Joyner and deputies. Each time he was released, but a careful watch was set up around his home.

Facts Were Confusing

Deputies were convinced by the physical facts at the scene where the murdered woman's body was found that a negro robber had not committed the crime, although Ashcraft claimed his wife left home with $240 and a diamond ring valued at $90. Both the money and

ring were reported stolen.

However, investigators pointed out that Mrs. Ashcraft's open purse, a bath towel, her black straw hat, a compact and her driver's license were on the floor of the front of her car. Two bank books showing balances also were found later.

Deputies at the time discredited the negro holdup theory on the grounds the murdered woman's purse and other possessions would not have been left strewn about the scene where the abandoned car was found.

"What general condition was he in," Mr. McTighe asked. "Was he frightened?"

"No," Mr. Becker replied. "He appeared as he does right now." He indicated the negro sitting quietly by Chief Deputy Sheriff Oliver Perry.

The deputy told of Ashcraft and Ware giving oral statements in each other's presence and the three prominent Memphians serving as witnesses to the stories.

"Used Own Words"

"He told us he first tried to drown her, then knocked her on the head with a rock," Mr. Becker said. "Most of the time he went right ahead with his story. He told us in his own words and in his own way."

The negro said he was paid $50 to kill Mrs. Ashcraft, the deputy testified.

"You say he got the money?" Mr. McTighe asked.

"Yes he did," Mr. Backer replied.

"Did he say Ashcraft gave it to him?" Mr. McTighe demanded.

"He certainly did," the deputy said.

Claims Evidence

Asked if there was any evidence to corroborate the negro's signed testimony, Mr. Becker replied:

"Certainly. There were articles in the car he described. If he hadn't been in it, he could never have known they were there."

"Do you have anything else to substantiate it?" Mr. McTighe asked.

"We have the statement of one white man," Mr. Becker said. "He is E. E. Ashcraft, who the negro said was in the car."

Mr. Ashcraft, Mr. Becker continued, was in the presence of the negro when his oral statement was made. Later, he witnessed a transcript, taken by Henry Waldauer, court reporter, by "touching his hand to the pen," according to the deputy's testimony.

"Did Ashcraft involve the boy in his oral statement?" Mr. Becker was asked.

Two Stories Agree

"Yes, he did," the deputy replied. "The negro did not disagree with any of the main events in Ashcraft's story. He corrected some minor details."

The courtroom controversy over Mr. McTighe's right to represent Ware developed the fact that Robert Tillman, Shelby County public defender, may come into the case as one of the negro's attorneys.

Called by Mr. Battle to testify in connection with the conflict, Mr. Tillman said:

"I questioned Ware about his ability to pay an attorney and he said he had only a nickel to his name. I also asked him if he knew Mr. Smith was a very good friend of Ashcraft's.

"He said he did not want an attorney Mr. Smith had chosen as 'they will try and unload it all on me'."

County Jailer Testifies

Emmett Armour, Shelby County jailer, also testified that he had refused to let Mr. McTighe see the negro, because War had told him "he didn't want to talk to him."

"I was legitimately employed in this case and make this statement as an officer of this court," Mr. McTighe declared. He pointed out that the petition was sworn to by the negro's father and mother, his wife and sister. Ware is 20.

Meanwhile, Sam Rhem and Raymond Norcross, who represent Ashcraft, released the following statement by the client:

"I have been greatly encouraged and heartened by the splendid way in which so many of my friends have come forward with expressions of their faith in my innocence and evidences of the lack of foundation of the charegs against me.

"I want them all to know that their faith in me will ultimately be vindicated by a universal acknowledgement of my innocence.

"E. E. Ashcraft."

In Charge

Sheriff Guy Joyner was in charge of the Ashcraft murder investigation conducted by his office and the attorney-general's office.

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

PROBE SLAYING OF 2 SOLDIERS IN BUS BATTLE

Three Other Fort Bragg Men Are Wounded.

Fayetteville, N. C. Aug. 6 [Special].—A military investigation was begun tonight into a gun battle between soldiers aboard a bus here early today which left two dead and three wounded. Three of those shot were military policemen.

The inquiry is being conducted by Capt. Clarence M. Rogers, post inspector at nearby Fort Bragg, where all of the soldiers involved are stationed. Col. C. B. Elliott, post commandant, said that because military police were involved the investigation had been taken out of the hands of the provost marshal who, as head of the military police, ordinarily conducts such inquiries.

Sergeant is Killed.

The dead were Sergt. Edwin L. Hargraves, 20 years old, of Corsicana, Tex., a military policeman, and Private Ned Turman, 27, of Ashton, N. C., negro member of the 76th coast artillery.

The wounded are two other military policemen, Private Allen E. Katzman, 22, of Sheridan, Pa., and Sergt. Welton Smith, 32, of Fayetteville, and Private Virgil Brown, 22, of Trinston, S. C., Negro member of the 96th engineer battalion.

Private Katzman was shot three times, one bullet passing thru his neck, another thru his chest, and the third lodging in his cheek bone. Sergt. Smith was shot thru the right hand. Private Brown was shot in the hip.

1 a. m. Curfew for Soldiers.

The bus, which operates between Fayetteville and Fort Bragg, 10 miles away, was filled with about 25 Negro soldiers. It was the last bus to the fort, post regulations requiring that all soldiers be off the streets of Fayetteville by 1 a. m. Numerous military policemen are stationed in the town to enforce the order.

Members of the 34th coast artillery brigade, of which the all-Negro 76th and 77th regiments are parts, were paid yesterday and some of the soldiers were loathe to end their entertainment in Fayetteville. Apparently there had been some disorder aboard the bus before it stopped at the Atlantic Coast Line railroad station, where the shooting took place.

As the bus was about to start after picking up passengers at the stop, fist fighting broke out among those aboard. It was later said it started over a dispute about bus fare.

Sergeant's Gun Seized.

Four white military policemen rushed to the bus. Sergeants Hargraves and Smith entered the bus and as they did some one kicked Hargraves in the face. Then Turman seized Hargraves .45 caliber pistol and opened fire.

His first shot struck the bus fare box and the next one killed Hargraves. Smith, beside Hargraves, was wounded in the hand by the third shot. Private Turman then emptied the gun at Katzman, all of the bullets taking effect.

The Negro dropped the gun and ran toward the exit but as he appeared Sergt. Russell Owens, 25, of Hartley, Ky., another military policeman, shot him. Turman collapsed and died.

One Cut by a Bottle.

Private Brown apparently was wounded by one of the shots fired by Turman. Another Negro passenger, Private Seton Kennebrew, 32, of Rome, Ga., member of the 76th coast artillery, was deeply cut on his shoulder, supposedly by a blow from a bottle, but it was not learned whether he was injured during the rioting on the bus or in a fight before the gun battle.

With the aid of city policemen, Sergt. Owens succeeded in quieting the passengers after the gunfire stopped.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
August 3, 1941

Guilty

"I think it is proper," said Governor Broughton in commuting the death sentence given a 16-year-old Charlotte Negro on a murder charge, "to consider the adverse conditions under which this boy was reared."

In effect, what the Governor said was that Charlotte was as guilty as the Negro boy. Quickly it should be added that such a guilt does not attach to Charlotte alone. When young people become killers at 16 in Charlotte or anywhere else the social order in which such killers grew must bear a portion of the guilt.

A great deal has been said in recent years about youth and crime. Solemn older men have deplored the showing of statistics that crime and youth go increasingly together. Such talk too often takes the pattern of age condemning youth and not often enough that of age lamenting what it has done to the young in a civilization which the young did not design.

Obviously, we cannot forgive all criminals because the social order in which they grew gave them only a very limited chance of growing to a decent and law-abiding maturity. But we can assume the share that belongs to us of the processes we permit which produce the crime.

John Wesley or some other religious man once, as he saw a man going to be hung, made the much quoted statement, "There but for the grace of God goes John Wesley." Actually when we see a man going to be gassed we should realize that we are in that journey to death—that we, participated in the crime—that all of us are responsible for those "adverse conditions" in which both boys and crime grow together.

33-1941

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte, N. C. News
January 6, 1941

First Murder

With a Mark of 47 To Shoot at, No Time to Waste

The first murder of the year wasn't long taking place. Wednesday was New Year's Day, the shooting (of a Negro woman by another) was on Friday, death came on Saturday.

One down, with 45 or 50 to go.

With 45 or 50 to go, that is, provided 1941 patterns itself after 1940 in this violent respect. Provided the police are no more diligent in arresting Negro killers — ten of 1940's are still uncaught. Provided the Police Department does not extend its patrol beats into the districts where murders are routine.

Provided the Coroner takes it as a responsibility of his office to hold more or less impromptu trials and hand down acquittals, whereas that is the duty of the courts. And provided that the prosecution in Superior Court is no more vigorous than it has been in years past, and provided that white juries continue to take all-Negro murders as somehow a lesser offense than white murder.

For last year, under precisely these conditions described here, there were 47 homicides in Charlotte, a new mark for the new year to shoot at. And it is only by the correction of these conditions and perhaps by sustained efforts along other lines, such as the passage of a law requiring the registration of firearms, that the Mosaic and North Carolina codes against killing are to be enforced.

Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch
January 7, 1941

Charlotte's Companion

[*Charlotte Observer*]

CHARLOTTE has a rival for the top honors in the homicide record.

Chattanooga had 52 murders, all Negroes, up to December 17, this year, and Police Commissioner Bryan of that city has been calling for more policemen for duty in the Negro communities and at the same time censuring the courts for their leniency.

"Not a Negro has been electrocuted for murder in Chattanooga in 20 years," he declares.

Commenting on the similarity of these conditions in Charlotte and in Chattanooga, the *Times* of that city says:

"An increase in the number of police officers in Chattanooga and in Charlotte would contribute toward effective control of the criminal element. But more necessary than policemen, able prosecutors, or determined judges is a vigorous, determined public sentiment, which will not only require of the officers of the law rigorous enforcement of the criminal statutes, but will also demand of juries that the crime of murder in its several degrees be punished severely. Enforcement of the laws in this city or in any other is never more effective than is demanded by the public."

And, of course, that's adequately covering the case for both communities.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
January 1, 1941

'Charlotte's Companion'

From the Charlotte Observer.

Charlotte has a rival for the top honors in the homicide record.

Chattanooga had fifty-two murders, all Negroes, up to Dec. 17, this year, and Police Commissioner Bryan, of that city, has been calling for more policemen for duty in the Negro communities and at the same time censuring the courts for their leniency.

"Not a Negro has been electrocuted for murder in Chattanooga in twenty years," he declares.

Commenting on the similarity of these conditions in Charlotte and in Chattanooga, The Times of that city says:

"An increase in the number of police officers in Chattanooga and in Charlotte would contribute toward effective control of the criminal element. But more necessary than policemen, able prosecutors, or determined judges is 'a vigorous, determined public sentiment,' which will not only require of the officers of the law rigorous enforcement of the criminal statutes, but will also demand of juries that the crime of murder in its several degrees be punished severely. Enforcement of the laws in this city or in any other is never more effective than is demanded by the public."

And, of course, that's adequately covering the case for both communities.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

WHITE WOMAN HIRES MINISTER TO MURDER HUBBY

She Gets Life Term; Colored Man Gets Death Penalty

FEB 1 1941

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—Because he murdered a white man for profit at the insistence of the latter's wife, the Rev. Thomas Melvin, 43, was sentenced to die in the lethal chamber of the State prison but the white woman got off with life imprisonment.

Testifying in his own defense, the Rev. Mr. Melvin, an ordained minister without a church, declared he had agreed to kill his employer, G. Irby Holmes, only after Mrs. Holmes over a period of several months had pressed him to do so.

Melvin told the court he killed Holmes after the white woman had agreed to pay him $2,000 so he could set up a florist business of his own. Melvin was a florist's assistant for 25 years, he said.

Melvin testified that he asked Holmes, whom the witness named as operator of a "numbers business" in which Melvin worked, to ride him out on the old Raleigh road on the night of December 31, 1939. Holmes stopped the car and got out, Melvin said,, and when he started to reenter the car, Melvin said he struck the white man on the head "six or seven times" with a hatchet.

Mrs. Holmes first gave him $20, and then, a little at a time until his arrest, had given him about $150, Melvin said.

Testimony revealed the white woman had tried, on several occasions, to get some of her kin to kill her husband. She later confessed that she had hired Melvin to do the slaying, and that she had paid him money to do it.

White Woman Gets Life; Hired Killer to Die

FEB 1 19

RALEIGH, N.C.—A white woman, Mrs. Florence Holmes, 38, received a life sentence last week in connection with the death of her husband, G. Irby Holmes, and Tom Melvin, whom she'd hired to kill him, was sentenced to die by gas on March

In passing sentence in the Wayne Superior Court, Judge Clawson L. Williams said that whatever might be the moral side as to which of the two is guilty of the crime, "the law is fixed."

Wife Insisted

In his testimony, Melvin referred to Holmes as "my dear friend" and said he killed him only at the instigation and insistence, over a period of several months, of Mrs. Holmes who offered to pay him $2,000 to set up a florist business. At the time of his arrest, he said he had received about $150.

Melvin, a florist's employee for about twenty-five years and an ordained minister without a church, testified that on December 31, 1939, he asked Holmes to ride him out on the old Raleigh road and after stopping for awhile, he struck the victim on the head "six or seven times" with a hatchet.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

JAN 27 1941

'Rev.' Gets Death In North Carolina Slaying

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—(SNS)—The Rev. Tom Melvin, 43, Saturday had been sentenced to die in the gas chamber for the slaying of a white man, Irby Holmes. The doomed man appealed his sentence.

Mrs. Florence Ann Littlejohn Holmes, 38-year-old wife of the slain man, was sentenced to prison for the remainder of her life after she pleaded guilty as an accessory before the murder of her husband.

Testimony showed that the Rev. Melvin engaged Irby Holmes' taxicab and rode to the edge of town were he killed the man by striking him several times with an axe.

The state introduced evidence to show that the preacher contracted with Mrs. Holmes to do the job for $2,000 but received only $170.

State witnesses said it was the fourth attempt by Mrs. Holmes to have her husband murdered. They said she twice had tried to hire her two nephews to kill Holmes, but they "lost their nerve" while the minister had failed in a previous role as assassin.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

JAN 25 1941

NAB MAN FOR 14-YEAR-OLD MURDER IN N.C.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C., Jan. 23—(ANP)—One of the strangest cases in recent police history ended Friday with the imposition of a 12 to 15-year sentence on Ralph Robertson for a 15-year-old murder.

Robertson was arrested on Dec. 15, 1940 on charges of assault with a deadly weapon. Friends of the man whom Robertson had attacked told the police chief that he was wanted for a murder in Raleigh in 1926.

Police Chief Sloan accused Robertson of killing a man in Raleigh 15 years ago, and the assailant admitted committing the crime. Robertson, however, could remember neither the name of his victim or the day he had killed him.

He was brought to Raleigh and detectives began probing old newspapers and musty records with no success. Finally L. M. Waring, [illegible] Wake County coroner, found details of the murder in his fee books.

The dead man was identified as Richard Belton, slain here on Sept. 12, 1926. Robertson told police he shot the man to death when he found him in an embrace with his wife. Witnesses testified, however, that Belton was only 17 and that Robertson had come home drunk and tried to beat his wife. When Belton tried to protect Robertson's wife, he was fatally shot.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

MAY 24 1941

Killed While Walking With Girl Friend

Four White Youths Held in Asheville, N. C. as Sequel to Wanton Murder

ASHEVILLE, N. C., May 15—In connection with the killing Sunday night of Robert Hughes, 18-year-old youth four white youths of about the same age, Burnos Sherlin, Winford Holder, Lloyd McHone and Gordon Jones, are being held in jail here without bond, pending grand jury action.

Following an argument with the white boys near his home, young Hughes was shot and killed with a rifle allegedly fired by Sherlin. The rifle is said to have been discharged only once, but the bullet pierced the heart of Hughes, who died instantly.

Signed statements police have announced were obtained from th white youths, were quoted as asserting they met Hughes near local drug store early Sunday nigh and an argument developed be tween them; that later they wen to Sherlin's house where they go the rifle, and getting into an au tomobile went in search of Holme whom they found walking with girl only a few blocks from he home, when the rifle shot was fired

Greensboro, N. C., Record
February 8, 1941

Greensboro Aroused 33 Years Ago Over Delay In Hanging of Negro

By DEWITT CARROLL.

Thirty-three years ago today Greensboro was bristling with indignation because a condemned Gibsonville negro had received a last-minute reprieve from death on the gallows.

It was not from a desire to see him dangle at the end of a rope public spirited citizens of 1908 felt that the man was being subjected to undue mental anguish.

Frazier Jones, the condemned man, had shot his wife in November, 1906. Duly convicted of murder, he was sentenced to be hanged and the Supreme court found no error in his trial. Evidence showed he had become angry at his wife in a breakfast table argument, being drunk at the time, and that he punctuated his words with a bullet.

Up to A. L. Brooks.

Execution was originally set for January, and was delayed when Jones' attorney appealed for commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment. Gov. R. B. Glenn denied the appeal, and continued to deny it early the morning of February 8. He telephoned Solicitor A. L. Brooks and said he would grant a stay of execution if the Greensboro man would recommend it. Mr. Brooks replied that as far as he knew, matters stood as they did after the trial.

At 10 minutes past noon that day, a crowd was gathering by the scaffold to witness the hanging. The rope had been put up and was being tested, and the black hood lay nearby. Jones was in his cell praying with two negro ministers.

The sheriff walked in and asked the condemned man how he felt. Jones replied that he was feeling as well as could be expected. Then, dramatically, the sheriff announced a last minute reprieve telephoned from Raleigh by Governor Glenn.

Victim Is Stunned.

Jones was stunned for a second.

"God is surely with me," he muttered, and the two ministers echoed, "Amen!"

Calm and collected while waiting for death, his stoicism cracked and he became so nervous he could scarcely stand or speak. He had assumed the protecting cloak of calmness several days previously, after spiritual advice from both white and negro ministers. Two days before the scheduled execution he voluntarily gave his jailors a knife he had managed to keep concealed from them.

The reprieve stirred Greensboro to indignation. Townspeople felt that the stay of execution should have been granted earlier, eliminating the anguish of waiting for death on the gallows. The Greensboro Record devoted much editorial space to this.

"They (citizens of Greensboro) are up in arms and almost without question they want Jones sent up for life," said the Record in part. There followed comment on a statement from Governor Glenn in which it seemed that the chief executive placed blame for the tardy reprieve on Solicitor Brooks, and this the editorialist peppered with ink.

Governor Glenn straightened out his side of the matter in a statement to the newspaper. He said he had been bombarded with telegrams requesting a reprieve, and that information had come to him substantiating a claim that Jones had slain his wife in a fit of anger at her infidenity to him. Other wires called attention to misconduct of the wife. The state's principal witness had reversed his trend of testimony.

The chief executive said he thought Mr. Brooks had known this last-minute information, and it was after he had learned from other sources that it had not yet been brought to the solicitor's attention that he issued the reprieve. He announced that the action in no way indicated a forthcoming commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment.

"If Jones foully killed his wife, he ought to suffer the penalty," said Governor Glenn. "If he killed her in passion engendered by what he heard or saw, then the death sentence should not be inflicted.

"There has been no effort to torture the prisoner . . . but simply an earnest desire in the interests of justice to do what is right . . . I am waiting to hear from the parties that offered to submit new testimony. It of course is a sorrow to me to have to inflict the death penalty, and it will not be done unless I am convinced it would be wrong to do otherwise."

After hearing the new testimony, both Mr. Brooks and Judge Fred Moore requested a commutation, and Governor Glenn granted it February 13. "It is best to make a mistake if any on the side of mercy than to too rigidly enforce justice," he said.

He was still criticized editorially for not reprieving Jones sooner. At that, Governor Glenn came out lighter—and with better reason—than a Texas governor did more than three decades later. Governor Lee (Pass the biscuits, pappy) O'Daniel recently drew a nationwide baptism of editorial hot coals for reprieving a condemned man with the comment that it would give him a little longer to suffer.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
August 3, 1941

Death and the Police

It costs a lot to be a police officer sometimes. Not the first nor yet the last policeman to lose his life in pursuit of duty on a Winston-Salem "beat," Gurney L. Royall has paid the supreme price for his job on the force.

It is not for us to say with what forebodings this brave officer may have moved to arrest a dangerous Negro disturber of the peace. It is enough to say that he saw his duty and tried to perform it with heroic courage. And death lurked beside the path of duty to claim him for its own.

This is only one of countless incidents wherein the man of the law has taken his life into his own hands in the performance of his assigned task of preserving order and protecting the interests of society. Because it is his duty to maintain law and order makes courageous action on an officer's part no less heroic.

As for the Negro slayer, his tribe is legion, his type raceless. Law-abiding men are not confined to anyone racial, social or economic group. Nor is it true that we find criminals of any ilk or men who wield the pistol and the knife exclusively among any special group.

This terrible murder, then, must be considered as the bloody deed of an individual only. But out of it should come a renewed determination to ferret out ways and means of making safer, if possible, the lives of the courageous and efficient police officers who safeguard the peace and protect the lives and property of us all. And, too, it should encourage us to wage unrelenting warfare on crime and those conditions which foster crime.

To the family of Gurney Royall the community extends its heart-felt sympathy, to Officer Blackburn its hope for a speedy recovery. And to the police department as a whole the community must again express its gratitude for the services and the sacrifices made for the commonweal by its brave men who walk, through the day and the night, their lonely and dangerous beats.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

YOUTH MISSING 2 DAYS FOUND DEAD IN FIELD

FEB 22 1941

Lad From New York Had Just Enrolled In Academy

WILBERFORCE, Ohio — After a prolonged search during which the male student body scoured the woods, surrounding the campus, the body of Mack L. Hurry, 15, a new arrival at Wilberforce university, was found Sunday afternoon in a farmer's field about two and one-half miles from the campus.

Although a coroner's jury reported that the youth's death was due to exposure, mystery still shrouds the circumstances surrounding it. No explanation could be given by university officials and police.

FEB 22 1941

Young Hurry who lived at 144 West 132nd street, New York City, and his older brother, Robert, aged 17, arrived on the campus at 7:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 6. Both boys planned to enter Wilberforce university at the beginning of the second semester, February 10. Mack was to become a junior in the Wilberforce university academy and his brother was to enter the college of liberal arts as a sophomore.

The two brothers went to breakfast at one of the university dining halls on Thursday morning and shortly afterwards became separated. Robert, taking advantage of the inter-semester vacation when no classes were scheduled, went to Xenia, Ohio, to the railroad station to arrange transportation of their trunks to the campus.

Mack's movements during the day cannot be traced exactly although he attracted some attention to himself by his strange actions and conversation. When he did not appear for meals on Friday, an intense search was made of the university buildings and grounds. The sheriff of Greene county was notified, and a police broadcast was made later. Searching parties were organized on Saturday and the woods were systematically combed until nightfall. The body was found on Sunday afternoon by two farmers in a field about a mile beyond the point where the search was abandoned the previous evening.

FEB 22 1941

No reason for the boy's disappearance has been discovered but his brother said that he did not want to leave New York.

The father of the boys who died last fall was a veteran of the first World War and was a member of the Dorrence Brooks Post No. 528 American Legion. Their mother Mrs. Frances J. Hurry, lives in New York City.

33
Ind

33-1941

OKLAHOMA

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

NEGRO GETS LIFE IN OKLAHOMA CASE NAACP TO APPEAL

Torture Victim Who Slew In Self Defense Convicted In Hugo Case.

FEB - 1941

Bulletin—Telegram received from Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel now at Hugo, Okla.: "Jury after five and one-half hours deliberation brought in verdict of guilty of murder and sentenced W. D. Lyons to life imprisonment.

Lyons is up for sentence February 10. NAACP will move for a new trial an note an appeal."

FEB 8 - 1941

HUGO, Okla. —Colored and white witnesses appearing here last week in the trial of W. D. Lyons, a Negro farmer charged with killing a white family and then setting fire to their home nearly two years ago, testified that the state investigator, Verni Cheatwood, admited to them that he forced the confession from Lyons after beating him with a black jack for six hours.

According to testimony brought out at the trial, Elmer Rogers, his wife and four-year-old daughter, were murdered on December 31, 1939 in Fort Towson, Okla., and their bodies burned when their home was fired by the murderer. The only evidence brought out that connects Lyons with the case is the statement of a witness who said Lyons was seen hunting near the Rogers' home on the day of the murder, and the forced confession.

Trial Is "Roman Holiday"

During the trial, which is expected to close tomorrow, when the case will be handed to the jury, Judge I. R. Childers described the case, which has attracted people from all over the country, as a "gala day". White students in the elementary and high schools here have been allowed to attend the trial with their teachers.

FEB 8 - 1941

good Marshall, special counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and Stanley Belden of Cushing, Oklahoma; testified that on the night he was arrested he was struck with a board, had his eye blacked and his head rammed against a brick wall several times, while officers took turns beating him. But, he refused to admit anything, he said.

Sometime later, he testifiefid, he was taken up to the County Proscecutor's office, where more than ten officers took turns beating him with black jacks. They then brought in some of the bones of the burned victims, placing them in his lap. They then continued to beat him until 2:30 in the morning, he said, when he finally "confessed." They then took him to the scene of the crime, thence to the state pen at McAllister, Okla., where he made a second "confession."

Officers Admit Violence

The county prosecutor, Norman Horton, admitted that they hit Lyons with a strap. A state investigator testified that he "yanked his knee." Judge Childers ruled out the first confession, admitting that it was secured as a result of threats, but refused to rule out the second one.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Peacemaker Acquitted In Killing

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Lee Johnson, 34-year-old Negro who insisted he took the role of peacemaker during a gun battle last March 16 in which three men were slain, was acquitted of a murder charge by a District Court jury Saturday.

Johnson was accused in connection with the killing of W. S. Wooten, special officer for the M. K. T. Railroad, in a shooting which followed Wooten's attempt to arrest Johnson and Finis Fenningfield, another Negro, for speeding.

Johnson testified that he tried to prevent Fenningfield from shooting Wooten and took no part in the gun play.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Army Officials Give No Explanation Of Killing

Oklahoman is Victim of Foul Play; Make Arrest

FEB 28 1941

VIAN, Okla.—Funeral services were held here this week for Private Paul Mayo of the Tenth Cavalry who was slain under mysterious circumstances at the military camp in West Point, New York, last week. Army officials while closely guarding details of the killing, did admit that L. T. Miller, a first sergeant, is being held on a charge of technical homicide after it was said he had shot Mayo as he was being escorted to the guardhouse.

Miller, according to a statement of Major Williams Maglin, provost marshal of the military academy, said that an altercation took place in the upper hallway of the medical detachment where Mayo slashed at Miller with his military belt. Subduing the private, Sergeant Miller said he placed him under arrest and after arming himself marched toward the guardhouse.

En route, Mayo is alleged to have attacked his escort again. Miller claims he fired two shots in the air before Mayo's persistence compelled him to fire at his prisoner twice.

Private Miller who was a native of Vian, Oklahoma, was scheduled to be transferred to Camp Lee, Va., this week.

As his body was being removed to his home town by Private J. L. Drizzle, selected by army officials to accompany the corpse, Drizzle alleges that he encountered trouble when he presented his ticket, which called for Pullman accommodations to the train conductor.

Said Private Drizzle, "When I reached the Pullman coach, the Pullman conductor in charge told me there were no accommodations for me and I would have to ride in the chair car designated for Arkansas. He asked me to sign my release of the Pullman and I would be reimbursed for the unusual portion of my Pullman accommodations.

"I refused to sign," Drizzle continued "and proceeded to board the coach. We had been riding for about another hour when the same Pullman conductor approached me again and said he could arrange accommodations for me in car No. 35, compartment C, so I accepted."

Private Drizzle proceeded then with the body of his slain comrade to Vian, Oklahoma.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Ask Grilling of White Suspect in 1939 Murder

MAR 2 2 1941

PHILADELPHIA

Montgomery County authorities were urged this week to investigate the possibilities that George Cvek, white, 28, now awaiting trial for the murder of a New York woman, may have been responsible for the slaying of a West Norristown matron two years ago.

The request came from Raymond Pace Alexander, counsel for Edward G. Robinson, handyman for the matron, Mrs. Clara O. Buchanan, white, who was criminally assaulted and strangled to death in her home on September 25, 1938.

Robinson Finally Released

Robinson, now recovering from an appendectomy in Montgomery Hospital, was arrested in connection with the slaying and after being held in prison many months was finally released on a writ of habeas corpus by Judge George Corson because of insufficient evidence.

Pointing out the similarity between the crimes on women confessed to by Cvek and the fatal attack on Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Alexander asked in a letter to Frederick B. Smillie, Montgomery County district attorney, that the man's movements be traced from the time he was released from Huntington reformatory.

MAR 2 2 1941

Urging that the district attorney dispatch his most competent detectives to New York to question Cvek, the attorney pointed out that the prisoner had refused to explain his whereabouts for a nine-month period after his release, and that it was during this time Mrs. Buchanan was murdered.

MAR 2 2 1941

Used Ingenious Ruse

Whether Mr. Smillie will conduct an investigation as suggested could not be learned. Cvek, according to New York police, followed a pattern of gaining entrance to homes by telling wives he was acquainted with their husbands.

The Buchanan case gained wide publicity as the State fought to pin the slaying on Robinson who was seen in the vicinity sometime that day. The Norristown branch of the NAACP retained Mr. Alexander and Robinson was released after a battle by the Commonwealth.

Mr. Smillie, in his recent annual report to the Montgomery County Court, declared that his office had "added considerable evidence" but "part consists of witnesses who are out of the State and cannot be brought back because the Commonwealth cannot subpena witnesses outside the State."

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Jury Frees 2 Whites In Attack On Watchman Who Killed 3rd Youth

Two white youths were acquitted on Monday in Quarter Sessions Court by a jury on charges of assault and battery brought by a neighborhood night watchman, who was forced to shoot a third youth when the trio attacked him.

The watchman, William Majore, colored, of Sickels street above Arch, testified that on the night of September 15, 1940, while doing his rounds, he was attacked by three men on the highway at 56th and Race streets.

OVERCOME BY BLOWS

He was approached by the men at 56th and Market streets where they asked him why he was trying doors. Majore showed his badge, but the three, brandishing porch rails, chased Majore to 56th and Race streets, where Thomas Cullin, 21, of Westminster avenue, overtook him and struck him on the right arm with a rail.

Turning, Majore drew his revolver and fired two shots, both of which hit Cullin in the abdomen. Both were taken to the hospital where Cullin died shortly after his arrival.

Majore was exonerated of involuntary manslaughter charges by the coroner. He then brought assault and battery charges against the other two youths.

——A Colored Judge——

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Win Reprieve For Negro Held In Murder Case

Defense Committee Presents New Evidence to Show Steel Worker Was Convicted by Flimsy Testimony and Beatings

(Special to the Daily Worker)

PITTSBURGH, Pa., July 27.—A young Negro steel worker, with a murder charge pinned on him through flimsy testimony, police beatings, and the argument that "any Negro would commit murder for $50" has won a stay of execution as a result of a campaign which has the backing of most influential Negro organizations of this city.

JUL 28 1941

Twenty-six-year-old Willie Jones was to be executed on midnight of July 21. Governor Arthur H. James, heeding the plea of the Willie Jones Defense Committee that new evidence was available, ordered a stay of execution until October 20.

The Defense Committee, with Merle C. Cook of the Pittsburgh Youth Council as secretary, has the support of both the Baptist and Methodist Ministerial Council, the Urban League, the local organizations of the NAACP and the National Negro Congress, the Negro YMCA and the Federation for Constitutional Rights of Western Pennsylvania. Similar backing is coming from Philadelphia and the case began to get nation-wide notice when the recent meeting of the American Youth Congress urged Governor James to free Jones.

The Willie Jones Defense Committee, concerned over the vicious anti-Negro character of the prosecution as well as by the possibility that an innocent youth may be executed has organized a strong campaign. Their lawyers have found new evidence and are ready to expose the faultiness of the original conviction.

JUL 28 1941

The Committee is calling for continued pressure for the release of the 26-year-old youth by order of the Goveronr although it is confident that its new appeal will win justice and throw the case out.

JUL 28 1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Second Killing for a Misdemeanor

A month ago, this paper commenting on the killing of a Negro who at most was guilty of being drunk and abusive, said:

> Over many years THE CALL has taken the position that every killing should be followed by a trial. It is impossible for the slain man to tell his story. At least the killer should tell his where the evidence can be weighed. Drumhead acquittals like drumhead convictions are against justice.

Now there is another killing, a frequenter of an alleged gambling house is shot by the police. We repeat our statement: the police should be made to explain in a proper tribunal how they came to kill a man who at most would have been charged with a misdemeanor.

AUG 1 1941

We cannot conceive of a worse condition than for the sworn guardians of the law to become slayers. In the raid which was the occasion of this shooting the police knew what they were about to do. They had the advantage of surprise. They should have gone in such numbers that they could do what they had undertaken.

We do not accept the explanation that a policeman is warranted in shooting because a citizen resists. They do shoot, and then claim that they act in self-defense. But is it self-defense for an officer, trained in subduing recalcitrants, to make his pistol his only dependence? We do not think so, and for that reason, along with the investigation of this killing, the police heads should warn the officers that if they are afraid to fight, they had better quit. Death is too permanent for a community to have police who shoot first and use their heads only to think up excuses for the slaughter.

The police commissioners are to blame for this callous disregard for Negroes. In the greatest of confidence that they were going to public servants, a group of Negroes went before these commissioners with a complaint. A member of the department had maligned the group, and they asked that he be punished. The commissioners promised a hearing at a later date. Instead, they whitewashed the offender in a star chamber meeting of which the complainants had no notice. Now we have the second killing in which unarmed Negroes are the victims. If we are not to have another reign of terror, something had better be done quickly.

AUG 1 1941

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

POLICE OFFICER SLAYS SUSPECT

Barefoot Burglar Is Trapped In Church, Shot In Chase

Finding of justifiable homicide was returned Tuesday by Coroner Gip M. Evans in the death of a barefoot Negro, who the coroner asserted, was shot fatally by Police Officer Jamie Moore after the Negro had been trapped in the basement of Walker Memorial Methodist Church, Tuscaloosa Avenue and Southwest Third Street.

AUG 3 1941

The Negro was identified by police records as Ezekiel Burwell, alias Charles Kirk, alias Ezike Burr. Numerous complaints have been received, officers said, on the activities of a barefoot burglar.

Police records showed, the coroner said, that Burwell had served several prison terms for burglary and grand larceny and for buying, receiving or concealing stolen goods. The Negro was wearing kid gloves when he was shot, officers said.

Coroner Evans said the Negro was trapped in the basement of the church by Officers J. C. Hare, W. J. Stephens, H. E. Loveless and Marston Muir after an attempt had been made to enter the automobile of M. C. Huie, 224 Southwest Third Street.

The Negro managed to leave the church by a window and after fleeing about a block was shot by Officer Moore, the coroner said, adding that the suspect refused to halt at the officer's command.

The Negro was dead on arrival at Hillman Hospital, officers said.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Says They Seized Gun

Policeman Kills Alleged Assailant, Wounds Another

A patrolman last night shot and killed a man and critically wounded the victim's brother, after the two attacked him in an alley, according to District police.

The dead man is Jasper Cobb, 35, Negro, of 1404 Belmont Street Northwest. His brother, Edward, 28, is seriously wounded, with a bullet in his abdomen.

The patrolman, Private D. R. Weber, of the Thirteenth Precinct, was immediately placed under technical arrest, pending independent investigations by the police homicide squad and the coroner.

AUG 5 1941

The shooting took place in an alley off Fourteenth Street Northwest, running between Belmont Street and Florida Avenue.

According to police, Private Weber, making his rounds, had entered the alley, and on seeing the Cobb brothers enter a parked car, he approached to question them. The brothers, police asserted, grappled with the patrolman and attempted to wrest his revolver away, whereupon the policeman fired.

Three bullets entered the body of the elder brother, Jasper. He died en route to Garfield Hospital. Edward, struck by a single bullet, was taken to Freedmen's Hospital, where his condition was termed critical.

Last Friday a third man was shot and killed by another officer during an attempted holdup. Sergt. John R. Leach, of Second Precinct, came upon the holdup in the rear of 1325 Nineteenth Street Northwest. A battle between the policeman and bandits followed, resulting in the death of a footpad.

AUG 5 1941

The day before, Thursday, Policeman A. L. Embrey, of Second Precinct, escaped unscathed when a suspect he had arrested seized the patrolman's gun, fired at him, and escaped.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

D.C. Officer Exonerated For Killings

WASHINGTON, D. C. — After hearing testimony for four hours and then deliberating 45 minutes, a coroner's jury on Friday exonerated Policeman Donald E. Webber, 26, of the 13th precinct, in the fatal shooting of Jasper and Edward Cobb, brothers, of 1404 Belmont street. Northwest.

The shooting occurred on Monday of last week. Jasper was shot three times and died ia few minutes later in Garfield hospital. His brother lingered for two days with a bullet in his abdomen before dying at Freedmen's hospital.

According to testimony, the brothers had just driven into the alley a short while before they were accosted by the officer.

As a car window was broken, the officer investigated and asked for the registration card. This was produced and the officer asked for an operator's permit. Jasper is said to have remarked that he did not see why he had to be subjected to all that trouble.

Webber is then said to have decided that Jasper was drunk and placed him under arrest. A struggle ensued and the officer's pistol was taken from his holster, he said. He grabbed the butt of the gun, the officer continued and finally regained possession of the weapon.

Asserting that he believed his life in danger, the officer fired, he testified.

The jury consisted of five white men and one colored, the Rev. F. I. A. Bennett, pastor of Calvary P. E. church. It reached an unanimous decison of justifiable homicide.

AUG 25 1941

In a meeting on Friday night, the Joint Citizens' Committee on Police Brutality condemned the fatal shootings as "flagrant, wanton and unnecessary." A combined memorial service for the two brothers and a protest demonstration were held on Sunday afternoon in the Vermont Avenue Baptist church.

During the previous week, another officer was freed in the killing of a colored man allegedly in the act of robbing a white soldier.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Police Murders of Negro Brothers Outrages Capital

Police Killings

Latest Killings; 63rd in Past Few Years, Spurs Negro Congress Action, 40 Representatives of Groups Form Committee to End Brutality

AUG 9 1941

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 8.—Feeling is running high against the most outrageous and unprovoked police killing of two Negro brothers, Jasper and Edward Cobb, which occurred here this week.

Earlier in the week another Negro boy was brutally murdered.

A conference called by the National Negro Congress and attended by 40 representatives of labor and civil organizations including the Communist Party, planned a mass public funeral here Sunday noon. It is expected that after the morning services, thousands of worshippers and indignant citizens will attend the public funeral.

The Communist Party, here, in a leaflet calling for an outdoor protest meeting at 10th and U Sts., on Saturday at 6 P. M., declared that "Hitlerism is running rampant in Washington."

This latest double police murder marks the 63d police killing of Negroes in the past few years. Indignant citizens feel that this time the police haven't even the flimsy pretext that their victims were committing a crime. The only "offense" of the Cobb brothers was that they were slow in producing their registration cards when the police asked for it.

The forty representatives have formed a citizens committee to fight this barbarous police practice to the end.

night during a fight in which Cobb's brother, Jasper, 34, was slain.

The policeman, Donald R. Webber, 26, attached to Thirteenth Precinct, is under technical arrest pending a coroner's inquest tentatively scheduled for Friday morning at District Morgue.

According to Webber, when he attempted to arrest Jasper Cobb, who he said was intoxicated, a fight ensued, with the brothers trying to wrest his service revolver from him. In the fight the patrolman fired six times, he reported.

Doctors at Garfield Hospital said Jasper Cobb had been shot three times, twice in the chest and once in the abdomen. Edward was shot once through the abdomen.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

AUG 8 1941

2d D. C. Man Shot By Policeman In Fight Dies

Edward Cobb, 28, Negro, of 1404 Belmont Street Northwest, died in Freedmen's Hospital late yesterday from wounds of a bullet fired by a Washington policeman Monday

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SAY GA. POLICE 'LYNCHED' MAN HELD FOR DEBT

Charge That Captain Shot Prisoner After Beating Him In Office

By CLIFF MACKAY

CORDELE, Ga.—(ANP)—Arthur Johnson was the victim of a "police lynching" in the office of the chief of police here on May 24, if reports from several responsible sources are to be believed.

Although the local white newspaper reportedly carried an account of Johnson's death being the result of resisting arrest, these reports say otherwise.

According to information, Johnson, the father of four children, whose ages range from three to 14, owed a white man seven dollars.

Monday, May 24, the police picked him up, put him in jail and it is reported that the chief of police sent for the white man to come to the jail in order to beat up Johnson for failure to pay promptly the debt.

After several hours, the white man is alleged to have gone to the police station and Johnson was allegedly taken to the chief's office where the beating began.

Johnson is said to have fought back and was successful in defending himself for a while.

When the two started toward him again, Johnson is said to have reached for a soft drink bottle on the floor in order to defend himself.

The chief of police is then reported to have drawn his gun and shot Johnson seven times, death being instantaneous.

The city physician is then reported to have called a colored undertaker and to have told him that a man had fallen out dead in jail. The undertaker came for the body, picked it up and was told to have Johnson buried by the next morning at 10 o'clock it was stated.

Police reportedly called on the dead man's mother to tell her about her son had been shot while resisting arrest or creating a disturbance.

When Johnson's mother began to cry, it is reported that she was told sternly: "Shut up. Don't you dare cry. Dry up those tears and keep quiet.

The dead man's widow and his four children are now on relief. Mrs. Johnson has high blood pressure an has been forbidden to work by her physician.

The oldest daughter, 14, has been working in domestic service, bringing in all the cash income that the family now has. The family gets a little food from the department of public welfare and friends help out.

AUG 16 1941

The shooting is said to have been witnessed by another colored prisoner in the jail whose life will probably not be worth much if it is learned he said anything about the occurence. The undertaker, too, stands in a precarious position.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Brutality Must Stop!

Georgia Man a Victim Of Police 'Lynching'; Shot, Killed by Chief

AUG 15 1941

The Call's fight against police brutality is not limited to Kansas City alone. Police brutality wherever it exists must be stopped. The following story of a police slaying in Cordele, Ga., is similar to the slaying of Harrison J. Ware by two police officers in Kansas City, last month. In both cases, the police officers began beating the Negro victim without provocation, then shot him when he tried to defend himself, in the Georgia case with a soda pop bottle, and in Kansas City with a pool ball. Police brutality must stop!

CORDELE, Ga. — (ANP) — Arthur Johnson was the victim of a "police lynching" in the office of the chief of police here on May 24, if reports from several responsible sources are to be believed.

Although the local white newspaper reportedly carried an account of Johnson's death being the result of resisting arrest, these reports say otherwise.

According to information, Johnson, the father of four children, whose ages range from three to 14, owed a white man $7.

Monday, May 24, the police picked him up, put him in jail and it is reported that the chief of police sent for the white man to come to the jail in order to beat up Johnson for failure to pay promptly the debt.

After several hours, the white man is alleged to have gone to the police station and Johnson was allegedly taken to the chief's office where the beating began.

Johnson is said to have fought back and was successful in driving his assailants back for afew minutes' rest while they collected themselves to renew the assault.

When the two started toward him again, Johnson is said to have reached for a Coca-Cola bottle on the floor in order to defend himself.

The chief of police is then reported to have drawn his gun and shot Johnson seven times, death being instantaneous.

AUG 23 1941

The city physician is then reported to have called a colored undertaker and to have told him that a man had fallen out dead in jail. The undertaker came for the body, picked it up and was told to have Johnson buried by the next morning at 10 o'clock it was stated.

Police reportedly called on the dead man's mother to tell her that her son had been shot while resisting arrest or creating a disturbance.

When Johnson's mother began to cry, it is reported that she was told sternly: "Shut up. Don't you dare cry. Dry up those tears and keep quiet."

The dead man's widow and his four children are now on relief. Mrs. Johnson has high blood pressure and has been forbidden to work by her physician.

The oldest daughter, 14, has been working in domestic service, bringing in all the cash income that the family now has. The family gets a little food from the department of public welfare and friends help out.

The shooting is said to have been witnessed by another colored prisoner in the jail whose life will probably not be worth much if it is learned he said anything about the occurence. The undertaker, too, stands in a precarious position.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Police Murders of Negro Brothers Outrages Capital

Police Killings

Latest Killings; 63rd in Past Few Years, Spurs Negro Congress Action, 40 Representatives of Groups Form Committee to End Brutality

WASHINGTON, D.C., AUG 9 1941 8.—Feeling is running high against the most outrageous and unprovoked police killing of two Negro brothers, Jasper and Edward Cobb, which occurred here this week.

Earlier in the week another Negro boy was brutally murdered.

A conference called by the National Negro Congress and attended by 40 representatives of labor and civil organizations including the Communist Party, planned a mass public funeral here Sunday noon. It is expected that after the morning services, thousands of worshippers and indignant citizens will attend the public funeral.

The Communist Party, here, in a leaflet calling for an outdoor protest meeting at 10th and U Sts., on Saturday at 6 P. M., declared that "Hitlerism is running rampant in Washington."

This latest double police murder marks the 63d police killing of Negroes in the past few years. Indignant citizens feel that this time the police haven't even the flim pretext that their victims were committing a crime. The only "offense" of the Cobb brothers was that they were slow in producing their registration cards when the police asked for it.

The forty representatives have formed a citizens committee to fight this barbarous police practice to the end.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

2d D. C. Man Shot By Policeman In Fight Dies

Edward Cobb, 28, Negro, of 1404 Belmont Street Northwest, died in Freedmen's Hospital late yesterday from wounds of a bullet fired by a Washington policeman Monday night during a fight in which Cobb's brother, Jasper, 34, was slain.

The policeman, Donald R. Webber, 26, attached to Thirteenth Precinct, is under technical arrest pending a coroner's inquest tentatively scheduled for Friday morning at District Morgue.

According to Webber, when he attempted to arrest Jasper Cobb, who he said was intoxicated, a fight ensued, with the brothers trying to wrest his service revolver from him. In the fight the patrolman fired six times, he reported.

Doctors at Garfield Hospital said Jasper Cobb had been shot three times, twice in the chest and once in the abdomen. Edward was shot once through the abdomen.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SAY GA. POLICE 'LYNCHED' MAN HELD FOR DEBT

Charge That Captain Shot Prisoner After Beating Him In Office

By CLIFF MACKAY

CORDELE, Ga.—(ANP)—Arthur Johnson was the victim of a "police lynching" in the office of the chief of police here on May 24, if reports from several responsible sources are to be believed.

Although the local white newspaper reportedly carried an account of Johnson's death being the result of resisting arrest, these reports say otherwise.

According to information, Johnson, the father of four children, whose ages range from three to 14, owed a white man seven dollars.

Monday, May 24, the police picked him up, put him in jail and it is reported that the chief of police sent for the white man to come to the jail in order to beat up Johnson for failure to pay promptly the debt.

After several hours, the white man is alleged to have gone to the police station and Johnson was allegedly taken to the chief's office where the beating began.

Johnson is said to have fought back and was successful in defending himself for a while.

When the two started toward him again, Johnson is said to have reached for a soft drink bottle on the floor in order to defend himself.

The chief of police is then reported to have drawn his gun and shot Johnson seven times, death being instantaneous.

The city physician is then reported to have called a colored undertaker and to have told him that a man had fallen out dead in jail. The undertaker came for the body, picked it up and was told to have Johnson buried by the next morning at 10 o'clock it was stated.

Police reportedly called on the dead man's mother to tell her about her son had been shot while resisting arrest or creating a disturbance.

When Johnson's mother began to cry, it is reported that she was told sternly: "Shut up. Don't you dare cry. Dry up those tears and keep quiet.

The dead man's widow and his four children are now on relief. Mrs. Johnson has high blood pressure an has been forbidden to work by her physician.

The oldest daughter, 14, has been working in domestic service, bringing in all the cash income that the family now has. The family gets a little food from the department of public welfare and friends help out.

The shooting is said to have been witnessed by another colored prisoner in the jail whose life will probably not be worth much if it is learned he said anything about the occurence. The undertaker, too, stands in a precarious position.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Brutality Must Stop!

Georgia Man a Victim Of Police 'Lynching'; Shot, Killed by Chief

The Call's fight against police brutality is not limited to Kansas City alone. Police brutality wherever it exists must be stopped. The following story of a police slaying in Cordele, Ga., is similar to the slaying of Harrison J. Ware by two police officers in Kansas City, last month. In both cases, the police officers began beating the Negro victim without provocation, then shot him when he tried to defend himself, in the Georgia case with a soda pop bottle, and in Kansas City with a pool ball. Police brutality must stop!

CORDELE, Ga. — (ANP) — Arthur Johnson was the victim of a "police lynching" in the office of the chief of police here on May 24, if reports from several responsible sources are to be believed.

Although the local white newspaper reportedly carried an account of Johnson's death being the result of resisting arrest, these reports say otherwise.

According to information, Johnson, the father of four children, whose ages range from three to 14, owed a white man $7.

Monday, May 24, the police picked him up, put him in jail and it is reported that the chief of police sent for the white man to come to the jail in order to beat up Johnson for failure to pay promptly the debt.

After several hours, the white man is alleged to have gone to the police station and Johnson was allegedly taken to the chief's office where the beating began.

Johnson is said to have fought back and was successful in driving his assailants back for afew minutes' rest while they collected themselves to renew the assault.

When the two started toward him again, Johnson is said to have reached for a Coca-Cola bottle on the floor in order to defend himself.

The chief of police is then reported to have drawn his gun and shot Johnson seven times, death being instantaneous.

The city physician is then reported to have called a colored undertaker and to have told him that a man had fallen out dead in jail. The undertaker came for the body, picked it up and was told to have Johnson buried by the next morning at 10 o'clock it was stated.

Police reportedly called on the dead man's mother to tell her that her son had been shot while resisting arrest or creating a disturbance.

When Johnson's mother began to cry, it is reported that she was told sternly: "Shut up. Don't you dare cry. Dry up those tears and keep quiet."

The dead man's widow and his four children are now on relief. Mrs. Johnson has high blood pressure and has been forbidden to work by her physician.

The oldest daughter, 14, has been working in domestic service, bringing in all the cash income that the family now has. The family gets a little food from the department of public welfare and friends help out.

The shooting is said to have been witnessed by another colored prisoner in the jail whose life will probably not be worth much if it is learned he said anything about the occurence. The undertaker, too, stands in a precarious position.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Bury Two Negro Youths Slain by Capital Police

2,000 Attend Funeral in Washington for Brothers Killed for Being 'Too Slow' in Showing Draft Registration Cards

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—More than 2,000 persons yesterday attended the funeral here of the two Cobb brothers, young Negroes brutally murdered by capital police last week.

Many miles of cars trailed the funeral procession to the railroad station, where the bodies of Jasper and Edward Cobb were sent to their home in North Carolina for burial. The youths were slain by a policeman after they had been "slow" in producing their registration cards. Their deaths marked the 63rd police slaying here in the last few years.

Rev. Alstark of the Ministerial Alliance declared in his sermon that the occasion was not so much a funeral service but a protest demonstration against the uncivilized brutality of the capital police.

HITS COPS UNLAWLESSNESS

Eugene Davidson of the New Negro Alliance, who also spoke, declared that a united fight was needed to put an end to the lawlessness of the police.

At a protest demonstration Sunday Martin Chancey and William Taylor, leaders of the Communist Party in Maryland and the capital, denounced the slayings as Hitlerism. They stressed that the only way for this nation to defeat Hitlerism is to carry on a determined battle to root it out at home, to put an end to lynchings, jim crow and job discrimination.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Capt. Goins Kills Gun-Waving Negro

William Edward Moulton, negro, was fatally shot early Sunday by Police Captain T. H. Goins who escaped injury by fast handling of his gun after the negro had menaced him with a pistol, according to report at police headquarters. The shooting in the rear of the Butterfly Inn on the Wetumpka Highway took place while Capt. Goins and Capt. A. J. Coker were looking for another negro who had fled after exchanging shots with military police from Gunter Field as aftermath of a brawl on the highway near the field.

According to police, about 11:20 p.m. Saturday, a car containing five negroes stopped to fix a puncture on the highway near Gunter Field. While doing so, the negroes got into a row with several white patrons of a nearby roadhouse. One of the negroes was said to have brandished a pistol and threatened the whites, following this up by opening fire on a detail of military police who sought to quell him. The negro fled after firing five shots at the MP.'s, who fired eleven times in return without connecting, it was stated.

Following report that the wanted negro was at the Butterfly Inn, Capts. Goins and Coker investigated. In the rear of the inn about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, they found two negroes, one answering to the description of the wanted man, who fled and made good his escape. The other, Moulton, was said to have whirled upon Capt. Goins, gun in hand, and was shot three times by the police captain. He died at Fraternal Hospital Sunday at 5 p.m.

A written report by Capt. Coker corroborated Capt. Goins' statement that he shot the negro after the latter had attempted to shoot him.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SAY CONGRESS OK'S POLICE BRUTALITIES

NAACP Reports Sanction Of D. C. Strong-Arm Activities

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Congressional sanction of "strong-arm" methods by the Washington police department was cited by the executive committee of the local N. A. A. C. P. branch as the apparent cause of the killing of three Negroes by police officers within a week.

The committee at its monthly meeting on Tuesday received reports from the legal committee covering recent complaints of police violence and from the labor committee in regard to activity in connection with the strike of 350 workers at the Arcade-Sunshine laundry.

Dr. Leon A. Ransom, chairman of the legal committee, stated that the public stigmatizing of the colored population as a criminal element during the congressional inquiry, the sponsorship of physical violence by police officials and congressmen, and the racial emphasis in newspaper reports of recent crimes, have contributed to a tension in the District which may have explosive results.

"Negroes in Washington," said Dr. Ransom, "are bitterly resentful at the present trend of events. They feel that their lives and persons may be imperilled at any time and that many policemen, who should protect citizens without regard for race or color, have become parties to a conspiracy to harass the colored population as to drive them from the District.

The committee opposed the granting of general police authority to private guards and also censured the attitude of police officers in attendance at the main plant of the Arcade-Sunshine laundry where a strike has been in progress for the last six weeks. The fact that the majority of the strikers and pickets are colored is considered the basis for much of the anti-labor attitude by the employer and the partiality shown strikebreakers by the police.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Two Killed By Dee Cee Policemen

Washingtonians Are Indignant Over Brutality

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Local citizenry is up in arms over the unnecessary shooting Monday night of two colored men by a policeman, resulting in the deaths of both.

Jasper Cobb and his brother, Edward, were accosted by Policeman Donald R. Webster, 26, attached to the 13th precinct at Ninth and You streets, N. W., as they were standing near an automobile in an alley back of Fourteenth street.

Webber started to investigate, it is said, and when he attempted to arrest Jasper Cobb, who he said was intoxicated, a fight ensued, with the brothers trying to wrest his service revolver from him.

In the fight, the policeman fired six times, he said. Doctors at Garfield hospital said Jasper Cobb, who died instantly, had been shot three times, twice in the chest and once in the abdomen. Edward, who died the following day in Freedmen's hospital, had been shot once through the abdomen.

Webber is under technical arrest pending a coroner's jury inquest, scheduled for Friday morning. Cobb, Howard and Hayes, attorneys, have been retained by the family to represent them.

Public indignation on the scene of the killing was at a high pitch. Only quick action by cooler heads prevented the mob from assaulting the policeman.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

2 Brothers Slain by Patrolman

Dying Man Denies Pair Resisted Officer

WASHINGTON

Patrolman Donald Webber, white, attached to the Thirteenth Precinct, is being held under technical arrest pending the coroner's inquest of the double slaying of two brothers, Jasper and Edward Cobb, of 1404 Belmont Street, Northwest, Monday evening.

The brothers were fatally shot while parking their automobile in an alley in the rear of their home, after the officer accosted them and demanded to see their registration cards.

One Shot 3 Times

Jasper died almost instantly from three bullet wounds in his body, and Edward died the following day at Freedmen's Hospital from a bullet wound in his abdomen.

According to a report given to his superior officer, Lieut. Clarence H. Lutz, Webber charged that the men resisted arrest when he allegedly attempted to take Jasper into custody for intoxication.

Resistance Denied

A scuffle ensued, the patrolman reported, during which the men were shot as they tried to gain possession of his revolver.

In a deathbed statement at Freedmen's Hospital, Edward emphatically denied that either he or his brother had attempted to take the officer's revolver or had resisted him in any way.

Webber became abusive, the dying man said, when his brother encountered difficulty in producing his registration card, and raised his club to strike Jasper.

Tried to Ward off Blow

In an attempt to ward off the blow intended for his brother, Edward said he jumped between the officer and his brother, whereupon the officer ripped out his revolver and shot him.

Edward then took to his heels and started out of the alley. Webber then allegedly turned the gun on Jasper, pumping three bullets into him, and striking him over the head with his revolver.

Edward was apprehended by a police sergeant entering the alley, and brought back to the scene, unaware that he was seriously wounded.

Jasper was taken to Garfield Hospital, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival, and Edward was in turn taken to Freedmen's, where he died Tuesday afternoon.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Bury Two Negro Youths Slain by Capital Police

2,000 Attend Funeral in Washington for Brothers Killed for Being 'Too Slow' in Showing Draft Registration Cards

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—More than 2,000 persons yesterday attended the funeral here of the two Cobb brothers, young Negroes brutally murdered by capital police last week.

Many miles of cars trailed the funeral procession to the railroad station, where the bodies of Jasper and Edward Cobb were sent to their home in North Carolina for burial. The youths were slain by a policeman after they had been "slow" in producing their registration cards. Their deaths marked the 63rd police slaying here in the last few years.

Rev. Alstark of the Ministerial Alliance declared in his sermon that the occasion was not so much a funeral service but a protest demonstration against the uncivilized brutality of the capital police.

HITS COPS UNLAWLESSNESS

Eugene Davidson of the New Negro Alliance, who also spoke, declared that a united fight was needed to put an end to the lawlessness of the police.

At a protest demonstration Sunday Martin Chancey and William Taylor, leaders of the Communist Party in Maryland and the capital, denounced the slayings as Hitlerism. They stressed that the only way for this nation to defeat Hitlerism is to carry on a determined battle to root it out at home, to put an end to lynchings, jim crow and job discrimination.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Capt. Goins Kills Gun-Waving Negro

William Edward Moulton, negro, was fatally shot early Sunday by Police Captain T. H. Goins, who escaped injury by fast handling of his gun after the negro had menaced him with a pistol, according to report at police headquarters. The shooting in the rear of the Butterfly Inn on the Wetumpka Highway took place while Capt. Goins and Capt. A. J. Coker were looking for another negro who had fled after exchanging shots with military police from Gunter Field as aftermath of a brawl on the highway near the field.

According to police, about 11:20 p.m. Saturday, a car containing five negroes stopped to fix a puncture on the highway near Gunter Field. While doing so, the negroes got into a row with several white patrons of a nearby roadhouse. One of the negroes was said to have brandished a pistol and threatened the whites, following this up by opening fire on a detail of military police who sought to quell him. The negro fled after firing five shots at the MP.'s, who fired eleven times in return without connecting, it was stated.

Following report that the wanted negro was at the Butterfly Inn, Capts. Goins and Coker investigated. In the rear of the inn about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, they found two negroes, one answering to the description of the wanted man, who fled and made good his escape. The other, Moulton, was said to have whirled upon Capt. Goins, gun in hand, and was shot three times by the police captain. He died at Fraternal Hospital Sunday at 5 p.m.

A written report by Capt. Coker corroborated Capt. Goins' statement that he shot the negro after the latter had attempted to shoot him.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

SAY CONGRESS OK'S POLICE BRUTALITIES

NAACP Reports Sanction Of D. C. Strong-Arm Activities

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Congressional sanction of "strong-arm" methods by the Washington police department was cited by the executive committee of the local N. A. A. C. P. branch as the apparent cause of the killing of three Negroes by police officers within a week.

The committee at its monthly meeting on Tuesday received reports from the legal committee covering recent complaints of police violence and from the labor committee in regard to activity in connection with the strike of 350 workers at the Arcade-Sunshine laundry.

Dr. Leon A. Ransom, chairman of the legal committee, stated that the public stigmatizing of the colored population as a criminal element during the congressional inquiry, the sponsorship of physical violence by police officials and congressmen, and the racial emphasis in newspaper reports of recent crimes, have contributed to a tension in the District which may have explosive results.

"Negroes in Washington," said Dr. Ransom, "are bitterly resentful at the present trend of events. They feel that their lives and persons may be imperilled at any time and that many policemen, who should protect citizens without regard for race or color, have become parties to a conspiracy to harass the colored population as to drive them from the District.

The committee opposed the granting of general police authority to private guards and also censured the attitude of police officers in attendance at the main plant of the Arcade-Sunshine laundry where a strike has been in progress for the last six weeks. The fact that the majority of the strikers and pickets are colored is considered the basis for much of the anti-labor attitude by the employer and the partiality shown strikebreakers by the police.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Two Killed By Dee Cee Policemen

Washingtonians Are Indignant Over Brutality

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP).—Local citizenry is up in arms over the unnecessary shooting Monday night of two colored men by a policeman, resulting in the deaths of both.

Jasper Cobb and his brother, Edward, were accosted by Policeman Donald R. Webster, 26, attached to the 13th precinct at Ninth and You streets, N. W., as they were standing near an automobile in an alley back of Fourteenth street.

Webber started to investigate, it is said, and when he attempted to arrest Jasper Cobb, who he said was intoxicated, a fight ensued, with the brothers trying to wrest his service revolver from him.

In the fight, the policeman fired six times, he said. Doctors at Garfield hospital said Jasper Cobb, who died instantly, had been shot three times, twice in the chest and once in the abdomen. Edward, who died the following day in Freedmen's hospital, had been shot once through the abdomen.

Webber is under technical arrest pending a coroner's jury inquest, scheduled for Friday morning. Cobb, Howard and Hayes, attorneys, have been retained by the family to represent them.

Public indignation on the scene of the killing was at a high pitch. Only quick action by cooler heads prevented the mob from assaulting the policeman.

afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

2 Brothers Slain by Patrolman

Dying Man Denies Pair Resisted Officer

WASHINGTON

Patrolman Donald Webber, white, attached to the Thirteenth Precinct, is being held under technical arrest pending the coroner's inquest of the double slaying of two brothers, Jasper and Edward Cobb, of 1404 Belmont Street, Northwest, Monday evening.

The brothers were fatally shot while parking their automobile in an alley in the rear of their home, after the officer accosted them and demanded to see their registration cards.

One Shot 3 Times

Jasper died almost instantly from three bullet wounds in his body, and Edward died the following day at Freedmen's Hospital from a bullet wound in his abdomen.

According to a report given to his superior officer, Lieut. Clarence H. Lutz, Webber charged that the men resisted arrest when he allegedly attempted to take Jasper into custody for intoxication.

Resistance Denied

A scuffle ensued, the patrolman reported, during which the men were shot as they tried to gain possession of his revolver.

In a deathbed statement at Freedmen's Hospital, Edward emphatically denied that either he or his brother had attempted to take the officer's revolver or had resisted him in any way.

Webber became abusive, the dying man said, when his brother encountered difficulty in producing his registration card, and raised his club to strike Jasper.

Tried to Ward off Blow

In an attempt to ward off the blow intended for his brother, Edward said he jumped between the officer and his brother, whereupon the officer ripped out his revolver and shot him.

Edward then took to his heels and started out of the alley. Webber then allegedly turned the gun on Jasper, pumping three bullets into him, and striking him over the head with his revolver.

Edward was apprehended by a police sergeant entering the alley, and brought back to the scene, unaware that he was seriously wounded. Jasper was taken to Garfield Hospital, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival, and Edward was in turn taken to Freedmen's, where he died Tuesday afternoon.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Slain by Cop, Youth Buried

Donald Lightbourne, the 18-year-old Harlem youth who was shot to death by police early last Thursday, was buried Monday following funeral services attended by only close friends of the Lightbourne family.

The youth, slain while allegedly trying to break into a grocery store at 2214 Eighth Ave., near 119th St., lived with his mother at 311 W. 118th St.

Patrolman Arthur Fidgeon, of the W. 123d street station, reported that he fired on Lightbourne when he and two others, James Robinson, 16, 230 W. 114th St., and Willie Williams, 17, 253 W. 115th St., made an attempt to flee the scene of what was believed to be a burglary in the rear of the Eighth Ave. store.

Robinson and Williams are awaiting hearings in Felony Court on complaints charging them with robbery.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Sue Sheriff Over Death Of Negro

MAGNOLIA, Miss.—(ANP)—Suit was filed recently in Pike county chacery court by Atty. J. E. Franklin, Jackson, Miss., seeking $10,000 judgement against Sheriff L. G. Holyfield, Rankin county, and the United States Fidelity and Guaranty company for the death of Eddie Adams. The suit was for use of Rosa Adams, administratrix of the estate of the deceased Adams, and is in the name of the state of Mississippi.

The bill of complaint alleges that L. G. Holyfield was elected sheriff of Rankin county in the 1939 general election, posting a $10,000 bond as surety with the United States and Guaranty company. It further sets forth that Holyfield appoined Prentiss Taylor and E. W. Richbourgh as deputy sheriffs, and that on Sept. 21, 1940, Eddie Adams was shot and killed by the sheriff or one of his deputies while they were searching for intoxicating liquor in the woods surrounding the Gold Coast area. This area is described in the bill as being located on the western board of Rankin county near Jackson, a thickly populated area consisting of many different kinds of business enterprises, establishments, night clubs, etc.

Allegations made in the bill state that Adams and two Negroes were seated at the foot of a steep embankment on highway 49 when the officers opened fire on them. It holds that after Adams was shot and injured he was subjected to inhuman treatment and was then thrown in jail. He was transferred from the jail to his home in Jackson on Sept. 22 because he had become seriously ill. The next day he was admitted to Baptist hospital in Jackson where he died on Sept. 28.

The bill claims that his death was the result of gross carelessness, negligence and unlawful conduct on the part of the defendants, L. G. Holyfield, Prentiss Taylor and E. W. Richbourgh. The case will be taken up by Chancellor R. W. Cutrer at the December term of the chancery court.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Triangle Leads To Man Being Slain By Policemen

By LEE F. RODGERS

NORFOLK, Va.—This is a strange story of a man, his estranged wife, another woman, and a cop.

According to testimony entered on the court records, George Smith Jr., and a lady friend, Lula Sawyer, took a bus trip to nearby Virginia Beach on October 16.

Smith had a bottle of gin with him, and he also drank some beer. The couple had stopped at a place called Shady Rest. Smith, as the story goes, admitted to Lula that he was married but was separated from his wife.

And right then and there Lula saw Smith's wife coming down the street. Smith thereupon hastily left the scene. Lula hurriedly went upstairs.

Mabel Smith, the wife, followed Lula upstairs with a butcher knife, it was stated. There was a tussle, and Lula was badly slashed on the head and arm.

Police Officer G. L. Barnes appeared on the scene and found that Lula was in need of a doctor. Meanwhile, Smith had returned, with a cut hand, which hasn't been explained yet.

The officer sought to arrest Smith, but Smith balked. The officer said that he thought Smith and Lula had been involved in the cutting, but finding that the woman was in need of medical attention he got her to a doctor. He then returned to arrest Smith and picked him up on the street with a traveling bag.

But Smith just wouldn't be taken. He shoved the officer away and started to run, it was testified. The officer shouted to the man to stop, but Smith hastened on. The officer fired. He fired low, he stated in court, and didn't know how it was that the bullet struck Smith in the back of the head. The slug came out through Smith's forehead. He was fatally wounded, and the officer was charged with manslaughter.

The case came up before the trial justice on October 21. One of the attorneys retained by Smith's relatives was Oliver W. Hill of Richmond, on the legal staff of the N.A.A.C.P. in Virginia. The court reserved its decision.

Smith, it was brought out at the hearing, was notorious for getting himself in bad with the law. Meanwhile, Mabel Smith and Lula Sawyer await hearing on charges of assault. While the man involved in the case is in the cemetery.

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Rampaging Prison Negro Shot to Death at Sparta

SPARTA, (AP)—A Negro serving a life sentence for murder was shot to death by a guard Sunday and a coroner's jury found the killing justifiable, Acting Coronor Holland A. Berry said Monday.

Berry said that testimony showed the convict, Boston Evans, was threatening to kill another Negro in a bullpen of the Hancock county camp when the guard, William Archer, shot him through a window with a shotgun Sunday.

Witnesses said Evans chased the other man around the bullpen with a piece of stovewood and also threatened other prisoners, who sought to stop him, Berry reported.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Jury Upholds Guard In Killing

Claim Victim Was in Act Of Slaying Another

SPARTA, Ga., (AP)—Boston Evans, a colored convict serving a life sentence for murder, was justifiably shot to death by guard William Archer, a coroners jury decided Monday, according to Acting Coroner Holland A. Berry.

Berry said testimony showed the convict was threatening to kill another colored man in a bullpen of the Hancock County prison camp when the guard shot him through a window with a shotgun Sunday.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

ATLANTA CITIZENS PROTEST KILLINGS

MAR 15 1941

(33 Police Killings)

ATLANTA, Mar. 13—Race citizens of this community are aroused over the wave of police terrorism that was climaxed last week with the brutal cold blood shooting to death in die from a of the third victim to policeman's bullet. Citizens have organized a committee to lodge a strong protest with proper authorities and to urge an investigation into the situation.

Last week City Detective H. F. Brown was exonerated of all blame in the fatal shooting of Silas Welcher, of 20 Little street. The policeman claimed self-defense and said the dead man advanced on him with a drawn knife and that he had to shoot in protection of his own life.

MAR 15 1941

Councilman James Jackson, acting in the absence of regular Recorder Calloway, held a hearing and whitewashed the case. It is doubtful if a grand jury will hear the case since the Recorder's court has acted.

Welcher died in Grady hospital last Tuesday, shortly after being taken there by the policemen.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

CHARGES NEGLECT IN DEATH OF BOY, 6

MAR 22 1941

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Mar. 20 In a suit seeking recovery o $25,000 damages, brought ir Federal Court here against the officer by C. B. Nance, attorney, of Marion, Ark., acting as administrator of the estate of Mose Gillis, six-year-old Negro boy — Shriff W. H. Cocke, of Fayttte County, Tenn., is charged with criminal negligence in the fatal shooting of the boy, which occurred during a "man-hunt," led by the sheriff in March of last year.

MAR 22 1941

The child, it is charged, was shot through the chest and fatally wounded, when a bullet fired wildly by one of the sheriff's party, entered the Gillis home through a window, as a fusillade of shooting was suddenly begun without warning by the possemen who had surrounded another house in the immediate vicinity in the erroneous belief that the man they sought was hidden there.

A Federal Court jury awarded judgment of $1,500 against the sheriff some two years ago, in a suit brought by Mrs. Victoria Reed, of Memphis, who charged that her husband, Elbert Reed, was beaten to death in the Fayette County jail while held there as a prisoner.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Man Killed By Atlanta Policeman

MAR 25 1941

(33 Police Killings)

Slaying Was Accidental, Chief Told

A bullet from the gun of a city patrolman who said he fell while chasing a man, accidentally discharging the weapon, struck a vital spot in the suspect's neck and caused instant death, it was reported Monday.

Patrolman J. T. Bowen, of City Radio Car 17, submitted his report of the slaying Monday. It occurred Sunday afternoon afternoon around 2:30 o'clock.

The victim was listed as Oscar Hambrick of 1045 Martin Street, S. E. He was slain in the rear of 674 Martin Street, S. E.

22

According to Officer Bowen, he and his partner were cruising on Georgia Avenue near Martin Street when a white woman ran out and said she had called them to investigate whiskey and disorderly conduct at 674 Martin Street. The patrolmen proceeded there they said and saw a man come out of the house carrying a gallon of untaxed whiskey under his coat.

Officer Bowen said he called for the man to stop but he kept running.

"I shot in the ground several times, but he still ran", the officer stated. "Just before we got to the end of the alley, he threw the whiskey down into my feet and then turned around and struck at me with a knife. I dodged from being struck and the Negro then started running again."

At this moment, the officer stated, he ran into a clothline which struck him just below the bill of his cap and just above his eyes.

MAR 25 1941

"This impact caused me to fall to the ground, causing the gun to go off accidentally," the policeman said in his report. "The bullet from the gun struck the man in the back of his neck. He took several steps and fell to the ground."

At Grady Hospital, the man was pronounced dead on arrival by Dr. V. E. Keeper, of the staff of the institution.

The officer said that Leola Thornton, Daniel Tucker, and Carrie Lee Thornton all of 674 Martin Street, saw him fall to the ground "causing the gun to accidentally discharge." They declared they had never seen the man before MAR saw him run from the house, according to the report.

Mrs. Paul Donehoo, county coroner, said that she studied the case Monday and did not think an inquest necessary since there were eyewitnesses. She named one of the persons mentioned by the officer as an eyewitness as the eyewitness she would use in her report of the case.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Guard Is Indicted In Camp Shooting

(33 Police Killings)

JUN 27 1941

Roy Rice, guard at the DeKalb county public works camp, was indicted for murder yesterday by the June term grand jury of DeKalb on the basis of charges growing out of the fatal shooting of a Negro convict at the camp three weeks ago.

The Negro, Levester Broughton, serving a year's sentence for burglary, was allegedly killed in a row over a delay in serving food at the camp, witnesses said.

The grand jury returned two other indictments, one for assault with intent to kill, and other for a statutory offense, and adjourned until Wednesday morning. F. B. Grimm Jr. is foreman.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Officers Forced To Slay Negro

APR 7 - 1941

[Special to The Telegraph]

VALDOSTA, April 6—Preston Johnson, Negro, caught peeping through the window of a residence in the 300 block of Webster street early this morning, was shot in the chin by Paul W. Shepherd, occupant of the apartment. The Negro fled and was later caught by police and finally fatally shot in a desperate hand-to-hand fight with auto patrolmen Taylor Davis and Jack Frost.

APR 7 - 1941

Seeing the man at his window, Shepherd shot him with a small caliber pistol, the bullet penetrating the chin. Johnson fled but was later captured and carried to police headquarters. According to an official report filed by Patrolmen Davis and Frost, the Negro induced them to drive him to an address on Charlton street on pretext that he would give them information of value, telling the officers he believed himself mortally wounded by the bullet.

Patrolmen Davis and Frost drove to the spot on Charlton, Frost being on the rear seat with Johnson. At a dark spot the prisoner told the officers to stop, and he suddenly made an attack on Frost and a desperate struggle ensued between Johnson and the officers, both men finally finding it necessary to begin firing to protect themselves.

APR 7 - 1941

Johnson had in his pocket an official card saying he was dismissed from Crawford public works camps, near Jacksonville, Fla., on March 8. The card was signed J. B. McManus, a prison camp official. Johnson's address as listed on the card was 1322 Dukeville, Jacksonville, Fla. Officers are of the opinion that the prisoner has only been in Valdosta a short time.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Probe Emcee's Death Following Police Attack

APR 27 1941

NEW YORK, April 24—(ANP)—The police department is investigating the circumstances surrounding the unexplained week-end death of Grant Oliver (Porkchops) Paige, 27, well-known night club entertainer, 48 hours after an alleged "brutal beating" said to have been administered to him following his arrest on a charge later described as 'felonious assault."

Meanwhile, owing to the precipitous nature of the incident and the indignation of the hundreds of persons who witnessed the vicious attack on Paige by the officers and the manner in which they dragged him into the 123rd street police station with a rope around his body, several civic organizations are interesting themselves in the case including the Citizens Committee of Greater New York.

APR 27 1941

What Will be Done?

It has been learned that Patrolman Edward Singer and Detectives William Hogan and Philip Klieger, all white, have been questioned by department officials in connection with their part in the arrest and assault of Paige. What other steps are being taken to place responsibility could not be determined. Hospital authorities at Bellevue say that he died of peritonitis.

APR 27 1941

Information collected from various sources reveal that Paige became engaged in a dispute with an unidentified superintendent of several apartment house buildings while standing in front of 2164 Seventh avenue. The superintendent is said to have drawn a knife and threatened Paige unless he moved away from the building which the latter refused to do declaring it was his right to walk on the public streets.

The excited screams of several women standing near attracted the attention of a patrolman who approached the pair. Simultaneously, three detectives pulled up in a private car and grabbed Paige without explanation or self-identification. The victim is said to have resented this intrusion and so offered some resistance whereupon he was struck on the head and fell to the ground.

APR 27 1941

Rope Around Waist

The gathering crowd began to hurl insult and charges of brutality at the officers until for a moment the situation seemed threatening. Sensing this, one plain clothesman is reported to have drawn his pistol and ordered the crowd to disperse. However, many followed the squad car to the station house and were joined by hundreds more who witnessed Paige being dragged inside with no little gentleness and with the rope around his waist.

The crowd continued to mill about the police station and made it difficult for the ambulance from Bellevue hospital to get near to the entrance. There were rumors that Paige was dead but not even were reporters permitted to check. This was on Friday afternoon. At 5:40 a. m. Sunday, Paige was reported dead at Bellevue. The information was then made available that Paige had been charged with felonious assault.

APR 27 1941

Report of the medical examiner on the results of his autopsy has not yet been made but is expected early next week.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
April 29, 1941

Editor, Virginian-Pilot:

I read with interest your editorial, Sunday, April 27, relative to the report of the Defense Council. You correctly stated that the report showed no light on the cause of the investigation, that is, whether defense contractors discriminated against skilled colored men in any department. As you know, Hampton Institute, Tuskegee and St. Paul Lawrenceville, have been training colored students in the various trades for more than fifty years. It is out of question to withhold skilled colored persons from the opportunity of using their skill to help carry out this defense program. Your editorial is to the point and sets forth completely the council's failure to deal with the main issue. That is wether the twenty plants in the Hampton Roads area discriminated against the skilled colored mechanics.

The fact that 80 per cent of the colored people are employed doesn't change the old custom of employing unskilled colored people. The employment of unskilled colored labor had its beginning in America in 1619. And the unions have helped to keep colored people from becoming members of skilled trade unions, with a very few exceptions.

There are many corporations, such as railroads, shipbuilding, printing, which do not use colored apprentices because they have no idea of promoting them any higher than common labor. Therefore, the Education and Labor Act, S. R. 75, which is before Congress, will produce the report that must be made in order that the public may be enlightened and laws enacted to abolish the evil.

I have been reading the Virginian-Pilot for many years and I appreciate its fairness in matters relating to the welfare of our group. Its attitude in the fight for the beach, hospital, and equalization of teachers' salaries are evidences of your contribution to democracy.

REV. J. J. POSEY,
Suffolk, Va., April 27, 1941.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Stirs Ire Of Many Harlemites

APR 22 1941

Paige Was Night Club Entertainer

NEW YORK CITY—(ANP)—The police department is investigating the circumstances surrounding the unexplained week-end death of Grant Oliver (Porkchops) Paige, 27, well-known night club entertainer, 48 hours after an alleged "brutal beating" said to have been administered to him following his arrest on a charge later described as "felonious assault."

Meanwhile, owning to the precipitous nature of the incident and the indignation of the hundreds of person who witnessed the vicious attack on Paige by the officers and the manner in which they dragged him into the 123rd street police station with a rope around his body, several civic organizations are interesting themselves in the case including the Citizens Committee of Greater New York.

APR 22 1941

It has been learned that Patrolman Edward Singer and Detectives William Hogan and Philip Klieger, all white, have been questioned by department officials in connection with their part in the arrest and assault of Paige. What other steps are being taken to place responsibility could not be determined. Hospital authorities at Bellevue say that he died of peritonitis.

Information collected from various sources reveal that Paige became engaged in a dispute with an unidentified superintendent of several apartment house buildings while standing in front of 2164 Seventh avenue. The superintendent is said to have drawn a knife and threatened Paige unless he moved away from the building which the latter refused to do claiming it his right to walk on the public streets.

The excited screams of several women sanding near attracted the attention of a patrolman who approached the pair. Smultaneously, three detectives pulled up in a private car and grabbed Paige without explanation or self-identification. The victim is said to have resented this intrusion and so offered some resistance whereupon he was struck on the head and fell to the ground.

APR 22 1941

The gathering crowd began to hurl insult and charges of brutality at the officers until for a moment the situation seemed threatening. Sensing this, one plain clothesman is reported to have drawn his pistol and ordered the crowd to disperse. However, many followed the squad car to the station house and were joined by hundreds more who witnessed Paige being dragged inside with no little gentleness and with the rope around his waist.

The crowd continued to mill about the police station and made it difficult for the ambulance from Bellevue hospital to get near the entrance. There were rumors that Paige was dead but not even were reporters permitted to check. This was on Friday afternoon. At 5:45 a. m. Sunday, Paige was reported dead at Bellevue. The information was then made available that Paige had been charged with felonious assault.

Report of the medical examiner on the results of his autopsy has not yet been made but is expected early next week.

Southern News
Almanac
Birmingham, Ala.

Officer Freed In Slaying Of Negro Worker

JUL 24 1941

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—A coroner's jury deliberated exactly 8 minutes and ruled that Police Officer C. J. O'Shields had acted in self-defense when he killed Lee Smith, a Negro worker, last week.

O'Shields claimed that he and another officer were cruising about 2 o'clock in the morning and noticed Smith acting "suspiciously." The policemen thought he answered the description of an escaped Negro convict. According to the police, Smith ran when hailed and then fired 3 shots at Officer O'Shields who was pursuing. Aiming at the flash of the last shot, the patrolman said he fired only once. Smith was found shot to death with a bullet through his back at the waistline.

Smith had absolutely no police record, here or elsewhere. A 38-caliber pistol which police said they found around dawn was alleged to have been used by Smith. Legal experts pointed out that the police had no outside person to support their evidence.

WIFE TESTIFIES

The business-like atmosphere of the coroner's hearing was broken by the appearance of a surprise witness. Mrs. Mattie Smith, wife of the murdered negro, appeared with her 5-year-old daughter and asked to speak.

Declaring her husband had always been a law-abiding man, and had never been on the chain-gang in his life, she said he had never owned or carried a pistol. Nor had he ever been in fights or trouble during the ten years they were married, she declared.

Shown the pistol alleged to have figured in the shooting, she said, "It wasn't his. He never had a gun."

Smith was employed as an engineer and boiler man.

JUL 24 1941

About 4 years ago, a Charlotte police officer shot and murdered a Negro boy on downtown streets in clear view of witnesses. Tremendous white and negro protest brought him to trial.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Grand Jury Returns True Bills Against LaBaugh and Ellis

NOV 14 1941

Officers Who Shot Negro During Raid to Be Tried on December 1; Negro on Jury for First Time

The two white officers who shot and killed a Negro during a raid last July were indicted for second degree murder by the Jackson county grand jury which made its final report to Judge Ben Terte Saturday, November 8.

The officers, Charles LaBaugh and Dewey Ellis, who had been exonerated by the board of police commissioners, entered pleas of not guilty and posted bonds of $4,000 each. The trial date was set for Monday, December 1, by Judge Marion D. Waltner of the Independence division of the county court, who took over the criminal division at the beginning of the November term of court, Monday, November 10.

NOV 14 1941

LaBaugh and Ellis shot and killed Harrison J. Ware, while raiding the Autumn Leaf club on 12th street, on July 26. L. B. Reed, then chief of police, exonorated the officers, saying that the officers fired in self-defense.

PROTEST TO GOVERNOR

Protests made by Negro citizens against the failure to bring the officers to trial resulted in several hearings before the board of police commissioners which after an investigation also found LaBaugh and Ellis without blame in the fatal shooting.

The Negro citizens then took their protests to Governor Forrest C. Donnell. In the conference at the state capitol, the entire police administration as it affects Negroes was discussed with a view to improving the relationship.

Marked improvement has been noted since the August conference which was followed by the resignation of Chief Reed. Under the administration of Reed's successor, Chief Harold Anderson, there has been a decrease in police brutality and a more friendly spirit between the police department and the Negro citizenry.

NOV 14 1941

CREDIT TO PROSECUTOR

The indictment of Labaugh and Ellis comes as a climax to the fight to bring the two officers to trial for slaying Ware.

The grand jury which preceded the one called by Judge Terte heard many witnesses in the Ware case but did not indict the officers and did not mention the wave of police brutality.

Much credit for the indictment of the two officers was given throughout the Negro community to the prosecutor's office which worked untiringly to bring the officers to trial. Assistant Prosecutor John V. Hill presented the witnesses to the grand jury. Michael O'Hern is prosecutor.

There was one Negro on the grand jury, Francis M. Spencer, a mail carrier, the first Negro to serve as grand juror in the history of Jackson county and Kansas City.

Judge Terte pulled the name of a Negro from the jury wheel following a conference with members of a committee of the Kansas City N.A.A.C.P. branch, of which Carl R. Johnson is president.

TERTE CHANGES SYSTEM

Negroes have served on petit juries in Kansas City for many years, the fight for this right having been waged years ago by THE CALL. But Negroes had never served on grand juries.

The N.A.A.C.P. wrote a letter to each of the judges of the circuit court bench calling attention to the fact that it was unconstitutional for Negroes to be indicted by grand juries from which Negroes are systematically excluded.

NOV 4

A conference was held with Judge Terte, since he was to be the next judge to serve as presiding judge over the criminal division, a responsibility which rotates among the county judges, each judge serving a term at a time.

It was found that the names of four Negroes already were in the jury wheel. When it came time to select his grand jury, Judge Terte pulled a Negro's name.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Boy, 14, Shot by Cop in Harlem

DEC 6 - 1941

NEW YORK—William Jackson, 14, of 141 W. 145th Street, was shot and seriously wounded early Sunday morning by a white patrolman who said the youth failed to heed his command to halt.

The officer, Harvey McLaughlin, said he surprised Jackson in an attempt to saw the iron bars over a rear window of a grocery store at 141 W. 144th Street.

DEC 6 - 1941

The current police drive in Harlem to curb a so-called crime wave there also resulted Sunday in the arraignment of six men in Felony Court, most of them on charges of violating the Sullivan Law by carrying knives.

33-1941
Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Mentally-Unbalanced Man Shot To Death By Officer As He Flees For His Life

MAR 7 1941

Strong Condemnation Is Made Of Unnecessary Killing Of Uclie London At 16th And Cedar Sunday Morning

Whether or not an investigation of police-slaying of a mentally-unbalanced colored man will be made by Mayor Cummings or Messrs. Luther Luton and Dr. J. W. Bauman, members of the Board of Public Works is a matter of conjecture, but is considered a matter for serious political thought by these officials, provided they intend to be candidates for political offices in the future, according to discussions that are going on among colored citizens over the slaying of Uclie London, which took place last Sunday morning near 16th avenue, north and Cedar street.

The killing was described at the funeral services of the young man as being one of the most brutal that has taken place in Nashville in many years, and was said to have been wholly unjustifiable, as the slain man had not been apprehended by police in committing any crime, nor had any person, it is said, appeared at the scene of the killing to identify him as having committed a crime.

MAR 7 1941

London, who was twenty-five years old, was released from the Central State Hospital for mental defectives only last December. It is reported that he had been accused of molesting a colored woman. Whether or not he, as the daily papers reported, had also molested a white woman, is not known, but is being denied. At any rate, it is held that he easily could have been arrested and give this day in court if officers had made an effort to do so.

Last Sunday morning, according to report, officers accosted London near 16th and Cedar. They report that he tried to disarm one of the officers. However, he failed to do so and broke away and ran. He was shot while he fled down an alley. Following the shooting, he was rushed to the General Hospital where he died a short while after being taken there.

MAR 7 1941

First reports were that London had been "brought down" with just one shot from the policeman's pistol. There are rumors, however, that the man was shot more than once and that he was beaten after he had fallen to the ground. There are so many reports in conflict to that which officers gave the press, that it is held city officials responsible for choosing and training policemen, are confronted with the duty of making a thorough investigation of the case.

London lived with his parents at 1410 Pearl street. Both parents are hard-working and well-known citizens of their community. They and other members of the family were deeply affected over the way the young man's life was snuffed out.

More than five hundred people visited the undertaking establishment of Tillie Smth to view the remains of London. The report of London being shot more than once and of being beaten after he fell to the ground, as circulatde in the community, accounted for the widespread interest in viewing the young man's remains.

Funeral services for London were held Tuesday afternoon from Greater St. John Baptist church and were attended by a capacity crowd. References to the "brutal and unnecessary" slaying of the man were made in remarks at the funeral, as well as an appeal for Negroes to become united in a purpose to vote out of office high officials who will condone the unnecessary killing of Negroes.

MAR 7 1941

Not a few of those commenting on the slaying of the mentally-unbalanced man expressed the feeling that it made no difference if he had been charged with molesting women; that this charge should have been proved before any punishment was visited upon him. Many say that nobody's life in a Negro community is safe if officers, themselves, lawlessly engage in shooting at persons accused of minor crimes. It is well known that officers do not engage in such escapades when they are in white communities.

Another discussion that has been renewed following the London killing is with regard to the appointment of Negro policemen to patrol Negro-populated sections like the one on Cedar street where the young man was killed. It is held that no Negro policeman would have shot down a man who was running from him.

Although a leading appointee of Mayor Cummings' administration made a radio broadcast, immediatly following the Mayor's induction into office, to the effect that the appointment of Negro policemen "was not contemplated," the feeling is that the Mayor and his two associates, Mr. Luton and Dr. Bauman, ought to see the necessity of doing this, both from the standpoint of a more humane treatment of Negroes charged with comiting crimes, and also from the fact that the number of votes Negroes have given all three is greater than that they received from any other minority group of Nashville's population.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

City Detective Draws 30-Day, No-Pay Layoff In Shooting Of Negro

FEB 7 1941

Penalty Is Meted To Gilliland After Boy Is Wounded In Leg

Grover Gilliland, veteran city detective, Friday began a 30-day suspension without pay, decreed by Commissioner Eugene Connor as punishment for the recent shooting of a Negro boy in a railroad yard.

Gilliland's suspension was disclosed Thursday in the following announcement by Commissioner Connor:

"After a thorough investigation with Police Chief Riley, and taking into consideration Officer Gilliland's excellent record for 18 years, we are suspending him 30 days without pay."

FEB 7 1941

Johnny Daniels, 11, of 538 Forty-First Street, was the victim of Detective Gilliland's gun. He was shot Tuesday and was given medical treatment at the Hillman Hospital.

The detective reported to Chief Riley that he and his partner had gone to the railroad yard in search of three Negroes who had stolen some clothing and were believed hiding in the yard. Suddenly they came upon two Negroes who ran, Gilliland said, but one of the two stopped when ordered to halt. The other, he said, continued to run and he fired one time, the bullet fracturing the boy's leg. The officer added that later investigation convinced him the boy was not one of the three sought for the clothing theft, but merely a truant who ran when he saw the officers believing them to be truant officers.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

DEPUTY SLAYS NEGRO

Officer Fires After Being Stabbed By Prisoner

JACKSON, Tenn., July 5.—John Spears, 70-year-old negro and notorious in this section for his law-breaking, was given "just a fair chance" to [illegible] Saturday following a Friday night fracas in which he resisted arrest and stabbed Deputy Sheriff E. G. Haskins, and then was shot three times by the wounded officer.

Deputy Haskins, who had been sent to arrest the intoxicated negro, was dismissed from the hospital Saturday and was sent home. His condition was described as not serious.

After being chased less than a block by the deputy, Spears apparently had given up and was returning with the officer when he suddenly began his attack with a large knife. Deputy Haskins drew his gun and shot at the negro.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

Claims Youth Started For Officer With Knife

APR 25 1941

JUNCTION CITY, Kans.—Representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of Kansas City, Kansas were in the city this week making investigation concerning the killing of a soldier by a white police officer here April 1. The committee came here after the killing had been brought to his attention by R. B. Brown, president of the organization.

APR 25 1941

REPORT SOLDIER USED "REEFERS"

Upon investigation the committee found that there was a great possibility that it was an unjustifiable shooting on the part of the police officer. The committee submitted the following report to justify their contention:

An interview with Chief Jesse W. Filby was held in which he stated to James A. Hamlett, Jr., of the Plaindealer, and Thelma Rea Thurston of the Kansas City Call his version of the killing. He stated that two of his officers, James York and John Hunterdale, were called to the Sanitary Lunch at Tenth and Washington on the night of April 1, and that upon arriving there they found a Negro soldier sitting on a stool looking rather glassy-eyed, and acting as if he were under the influence of intoxicating liquor or under the influence of marijuana. The officers placed the soldier under arrest and placed him in their car to carry him to the police station. He stated that Officer Hunterdale placed the man in the car on the rear seat and got under the driver's wheel, and that Officer York attempted to get in the rear seat to ride to the station with the prisoner, and that when he attempted to get in and asked the soldier to move over the soldier pulled a pocket knife and attempted to assault Officer York, and Officer York fired his gun.

NO WRITTEN REPORT

Chief Filby said that Officer York is 32 years old and had been with the department five years, and that Hunterdale had been recently added to the department. Chief Filby had no written report of the shooting and stated that as far as his department was concerned it was a closed matter, and that this report had been turned over to army officials for investigations. The chief had no witnesses.

NO INQUEST

APR 25 1941

Dr. Robert Carr, county coroner, revealed less information on the incident than any of the local officials. After muzzling their way into his office, Dr. A. Porter Davis, a member of the committee, was able to get this information from Dr. Carr. Dr. Carr stated that he was called to the scene of the shooting and found the Negro soldier hanging out of the car dead with a knife clutched in his hand. Dr. Carr stated that he had no written report of the incident since it was not necessary for him to make reports of such incidents to the county clerk and that as far as he was concerned personally it was a justifiable homicide, and that the officer had a right to protect his life. He stated to Dr. Davis that no chemistry test was made to determine whether the man was under the influence of liquor or whether he had been using marijuana. He stated that the man had been shot through the right check and the bullet came out of the left side of his neck break the cerebral vertebrae.

When asked by Dr. Davis as to whether he held an inquest to determine whether it was justifiable homicide he said that he did not hold an inquest, and that he did not know whether it was his duty to hold the inquest or the county attorney. When asked by Dr. Davis what the reaction usually is when people in the struggle for their life hold to objects such as knives, sticks or any other weapon when shot, Dr. Carr had no

Dr. Davis said that the usual reaction is for them to drop the object either in the struggle for life or as soon as the body becomes paralyzed, and in this case the lower part of the body of this young man undoubtedly must have been paralyzed immediately following his neck being broken by the peatrating bullet, and that the natural thing would have been for him to drop the knife.

SHERIFF MAKES STATEMENT

APR 25 1941

Sheriff Carl Gardner stated to the committee that he was called to the scene of the accident at 11:55 April 1, by Mr. Dillon, assistant chief, and that he found the colored soldier in uniform hanging from the door of the police car dead with a single blade knife clutched in his hand. The blade of the knife is 3¼ inches long. The knife was clutched in the right hand of the dead soldier. Sheriff Gardner made this statement before Richard F. Smith, a lieutenant in the First Infantry who was investigating the shooting for the government. Government officials were reluctant to give out any information concerning the incident other than that a committee who handled such metters was making investigations.

LACK OF RECORDS CREATES MYSTERY

Because of the lack of records here at Junction City in the police department, in the sheriff's office and the coroner's office it was impossible to get the correct name of the soldier. His name was given by some as Halendorf and by others as Halestarck. Halestarck, according to what scattering information could be picked up, as government officials would not give out information concerning him, belonged to the Tenth Cavalry, and came to Fort Riley several months ago from the East where he had joined the army as a regular soldier. Scattering information also revealed that this young man was of good moral character and very intelligent.

APR 25 1941

Junction City has a Negro population somewhere around one thousand, and no Negro patrolmen. Chief Filby, when asked why they had no Negro patrolmen, stated that because there was no segregated Negro district they could not have Negro patrolmen. He also stated that the increased number of trainees and the coming of more soldiers to Fort Riley and Camp Funston had created very perplexing problems for Junction City as there is no recreation for thousands of young men in the vicinity. He stated that he was very sorry that the incident occurred as well as did the sheriff.

Both white and colored citizens expressed themselves that the shooting was uncalled for and that the officer should be dismissed from the department. Expressions were made that the officers showed lack of experience in exercising police duty as they did not search their prisoner before placing him under arrest. The soldier, according to regular police routine should have been searched before he was put into the car, but evidently he was not or the police would have found the knife. The knife came into the situation after the soldier was placed under arrest, according to Officer James York, the sheriff and Dr. Carr.

APR 25 1941

As to whether the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will make further investigation has not been revealed, but according to R. B. Brown, president, a report has been made to Walter White, Executive Secretary, at New York City. The committee that made the trip to Fort Riley was composed of R. B. Brown, Attorney Myles C. Stevens, Dr. A. Porter Davis, Thelma Rea Thurston and James A. Hamlett, Jr.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Police Slaying Being Termed "Closed Issue"

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—The shooting of Eugene Whitfield, 20 of 1511 23rd Avenue N last Friday night is a closed issue so far as the police department is concerned. Police Chief T. A. Riley termed the shooting "justifiable" after receiving the report of Officer W. A. Dobson.

MAY 3 1941

Whitfield was shot five times and died in Hillman Hospital last Saturday. Officers reported that Whitfield had been drinking and tried to start trouble with a knife and when an officer tried to take the knife away from him Whitfield began scuffling with the officer.

Officer Dobson is reported to have struck Whitfield with a walking cane and when Whitfield resisted the officer pulled his pistol and began firing. Dobson was employed by the carnival and while in uniform was not on duty for the city at the time.

Witnesses state that the officer deliberately fired five shots into the body of Whitfield at close range when the man refused to submit to a beating. Many failed to agree with Chief Riley although it was not learned whether any action is planned.

The shooting took place at a carnival stationed at 26th St. and 38th Avenue, in North Birmingham. Several dozen persons looked on while the officer engaged in the melee with Whitfield and the officer reported that they "began closing in."

MAY 30 1941

More shooting has been reported during the first five months of this year than the whole of last year. With one exception all of the shootings have been declared "justifiable" by police officials.

Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Negress Indicted In Woman's Death

Special to THE CONSTITUTION.

AMERICUS, Ga., May 28.—The Sumter county grand jury yesterday returned an indictment charging Ollie Leverette, Negress, with the murder of Mrs. Mary Bosworth, aged Americus white woman. The charges were the outgrowth of an alleged beating given Mrs. Bosworth last winter. At the time of the alleged crime, Mrs. Bosworth was confined to her bed, and the Negro woman was acting as nurse.

MAY 29 1941

Officers said a stick of stove wood was used in administering the alleged beating, and that death followed several weeks later.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

FORMER SHERIFF SUED IN DEATH OF PRISONER

Jackson Federal Court Has Case Against Patton

From The Commercial Appeal Jackson, Tennessee, Bureau

JACKSON, Tenn., Oct. 6.—Federal Court will be resumed here Tuesday with Benjamin A. Rhodes bringing civil proceedings against Tom Patton, former Madison County sheriff and his bondsmen, for $50,000 damages resulting from the death of Thomas E. Rhodes, who with Elbert Jowers reportedly died of suffocation in Madison County jail while Mr. Patton was sheriff.

The plaintiff avers Rhodes' death was due to neglect of the former sheriff. Rhodes and Jowers were being held in Madison County Jail on drunkenness charges when it is alleged a mattress in their cell caught on fire and caused them to suffocate. Mr. Patton and his bondsmen have been released of responsibility on a similar charge instituted by relatives of Jowers.

Federal Court is scheduled to begin consideration of its criminal docket Thursday after disposing of the suit beginning Tuesday.

33-1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA JURY HOLDS 5 WHITE MEN IN NEGRO'S DEATH

Discharged White Employees Beat Negro Millhand to Death for "Taking Job" at Lumber Camp—Coroner's Jury Acts.

FEB 22 1941

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Feb. 20—(ANP)—A jury empaneled Tuesday at Andrews by the local coroner, ordered five white youths held for the death of Bruce Tisdale who died in a Florence hospital of head wounds.

The jury held that the five men are "all responsible for the death of Tisdale and are to be held for the higher court." They are being held here by Sheriff H. B. Bruorton.

FEB 22 1941

According to testimony at the inquest, Tisdale and his friend, Eddie Gamble, were involved in a fight with the whites on the outskirts of Andrews Saturday night.

Gamble testified that he and the slain man worked at an Andrews lumber mill and that when they were hired, white men who did the same kind of work were discharged.

C. T. Barrineau, mill foreman, testified that Criss, one of the five men now being held, was discharged three weeks ago from the mill and that when he came back for his envelope he wanted to know "why the white men couldn't work and the 'niggers' could."

Columbia, S. C. Record
December 16, 1941

Negroes To Meet To Raise Funds For Osborn's Appeal

A mass meeting will be held Sunday at 3 o'clock at the Union Baptist church, 1016 Devine street for the purpose of raising money for the appeal of Sammie Osborne, Barnwell county youth sentenced to die in the electric chair for the slaying of a white farmer.

The execution has been stayed by notice of intention to appeal and $750 is the goal set for fighting the case through. The appeal is being carried on the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Contributions can be made at the rally Sunday or sent direct to E. A. Adams at the Victory Savings bank.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TRY MAN AGAIN FOR THIRTY YEAR OLD MURDER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

JAN 25 1941

GREENWOOD, S. C., Jan. 16—(ANP)—The story of the killing of Elijah Hackett in Greenwood in February, 1911, nearly 30 years ago, will be heard in criminal court here this week when Willie Glenn goes on trial a second time for the alleged murder.

Glenn, who still insists his name is Eugene Brunson and that he had never been in Greenwood until he came here in the custody of an officer from New York in the early summer of 1939, was convicted of manslaughter at the September term of court of that year and was sentenced to serve 12 years.

His attorney, Norman A. Harrison, noted a motion for a new trial and this was argued before Judge Arthur L. Gaston at the spring 1940 term and the judge granted the motion. Solicitor Hugh Beasley appealed from this ruling and the state supreme court a few weeks ago sustained Judge Gaston. Glenn has been in the country jail since he was brought back here nearly 18 months ago.

Pittsburgh Courie
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Two Await Trial For Slaying White Farmer

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 4—(By ANP)—Samuel Osborne, 17, and Girard Davis, 18, were transferred to Barnwell county jail last Saturday afternoon to await their September 22 trial for the slaying of William Pinckney Walker, 58, a white farmer at Walker station, near Blackville, S. C., August 17. The two prisoners had been cross-examined at the South Carolina State Penitentiary before their transfer.

Walker was shot when he entered the bedroom of the Davis home, where Osborne was sleeping. The youth claimed self-defense when he said Walker advanced toward him with a stick and a pistol.

It was learned that the trouble had started as a result of Osborne's refusal to work on Walker's farm the Saturday preceding the slaying because of a foot injury. Osborne came to Columbia immediately after the slaying, accompanied by his father, Nicholas Osborne, and surrendered to Sheriff T. Alex Hoise, Superintendent of Police Recohds William H. Rawlinson and Chief of Police L. J. Campbell.

Clarksville Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
December 1, 1941

Too Many Negro Slayings

Although homicides among the white race have shown an encouraging decline in the last several years, the taking of human life among the colored people continues at a rising clip. It has been several years now since a white man has been charged with murder in Montgomery County. The murder among the Negro race has become almost a common place event.

Sunday night a Negro man was shot to death by one of his own color. A few weeks ago another was killed. And at a recent term of Criminal Court there were four Negroes docketed for murder trials.

The price of human life is too cheap and too many Negroes are killing their own race over trivial incidents and two-bit arguments. They are not only violating the law made for all people, but they are taking human life which can not be restored. The overwhelming majority of the colored race is law-abiding. But those who think the law exempts them and gives them the right to slay others of their race must be dealt with under the full measure of the law. Colored homicides must be stopped.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SOUTH CAROLINA JURY HOLDS 5 WHITE MEN IN NEGRO'S DEATH

FEB 22 1941

Discharged White Employees Beat Negro Millhand to Death for "Taking Job" at Lumber Camp—Coroner's Jury Acts.

FEB 22 1941

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Feb. 20—(ANP)—A jury empaneled Tuesday at Andrews by the local coroner, ordered five white youths held for the death of Bruce Tisdale who died in a Florence hospital of head wounds.

The jury held that the five men are "all responsible for the death of Tisdale and are to be held for the higher court." They are being held here by Sheriff H. B. Bruorton.

According to testimony at the inquest, Tisdale and his friend, Eddie Gamble, were involved in a fight with the whites on the outskirts of Andrews Saturday night.

Gamble testified that he and the slain man worked at an Andrews lumber mill and that when they were hired, white men who did the same kind of work were discharged.

C. T. Barrineau, mill foreman, testified that Criss, one of the five men now being held, was discharged three weeks ago from the mill and that when he came back for his envelope he wanted to know "why the white men couldn't work and the 'niggers' could."

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Dixie Police Drop Inquiry

Authorities 'Unconcerned' About Recent Knifing Involving Sailors

SEP 27 1941

(Special Correspondence)

CHARLESTON, S. C.—Joseph Rowland's sudden death, allegedly caused by a six-inch hunting knife wielded by a white sailor, was still the talk of this busy little Southern seaport this week, even though it appears that local authorities are not going to do anything about it.

Rowland, 21, and the father of a four-months-old baby, was fatally stabbed in the abdomen on the night of September 13, when James T. Harris, the sailor, and two other whites, walked up to a group of colored youths near the Big Apple, a restaurant, and asked for a couple of "good n——r wenches."

SEP 27 1941

Young Rowland at the time was inside the Big Apple, but when the clash started he walked to the entrance of the restaurant just in time to be knifed in the abdomen. He died 15 minutes later at Roper Hospital.

Harris was arrested and charged with manslaughter, but his pals were allowed to go. Police released them, even though white witnesses testified against them for the brutal way in which Rowland was slain.

Early this week reports were circulated that Harris had also been freed. Police Chief Wise declined to confirm the rumor, however, by hinting that the case was still under investigation.

The victim's sister, Mrs. Cecelia Fair, of New York, attended funeral services for her brother. Before leaving, Mrs. Fair said she planned to bring the case to attention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
October 17, 1941

INQUEST SCHEDULED TODAY AT GAFFNEY IN FATAL SHOOTING

(Special To The Herald)

Gaffney, Oct. 16.—An inquest will be held Friday at 10 a.m., into the death of James Simpson, 37-year-old negro farm hand and Camp Croft employe, who was fatally wounded today, Coroner W. P. Batchelor announced tonight.

Cherokee county officers quoted Ruth Barnett, 26-year-old negro school teacher, as saying she shot Simpson today about 6:30 a.m., when he grappled with her after she had ordered him to leave the premises at the Barnett farm in the Ravenna community, near Gaffney.

Cherokee county officers quoted the negro school teacher as declaring.

"I was only trying to frighten him. I did not even know the gun was loaded."

Officers said the Barnett woman reported Simpson abused her and Eliza Barnett, her 80-year-old mother, prior to the shooting. The negro school teacher identified Simpson as a distant relative of hers, according to investigating police.

The inquest into the death of the negro, who died here this morning at the hospital a few hours after the shooting, will be held at the courthouse, Coroner Batchelor said.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

GRAND JURY TO ACT FRIDAY ON MURDER DENIED BY ASHCRAFT

'Have Not Made Confession To Anyone,' Husband Of Slain Woman Declares

'NOT GUILTY,' HE SAYS

Sheriff Has Statement, But It's Not Signed

SPEEDY TRIAL IS SOUGHT

Atty. Gen. Will Gerber Indicates His Office Will Ask The Death Penalty For Both Suspects In Raleigh Slaying

(Pictures on Page 11)

By DAVE M'CONNELL

The Shelby County Grand Jury will study first degree murder charges Friday against E. E. Ashcraft, 44-year-old drag line operator, and John Ware, negro, who the state claims was hired by Ashcraft to help kill his attractive wife, Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft.

Atty. Gen. Will Gerber said his office would seek a speedy trial of the case and indicated that the death penalty would be asked for both Ashcraft and the 20-year-old negro.

Ashcraft Denies Guilt

While the attorney general's office made plans yesterday to present the murder charges to the Grand Jury, Ashcraft issued a denial of any connection with the brutal slaying, declaring, "I know, as surely as there is a God in Heaven, a full disclosure of all the facts will reveal me to be an innocent man."

He met reporters in the third floor bull pen of Shelby County Jail, where he is being held without bond. There he denied Sheriff Guy Joyner"s charges that he has admitted hiring Ware to kill his wife because of domestic troubles.

"I have not made a socalled confession to anyone for the simple reason that I am not guilty," he declared.

"Suffering From Shock"

His attorney, Sam Rhem, said Ashcraft still was suffering from the "shock of the death of his wife and the charges made against him."

Sheriff Joyner, however, announced that Ashcraft had given investigators a statement and had admitted its truth when it was read back to him in the presence of two reputable Memphis business men. The sheriff claimed Ashcraft then refused to sign the statement "until I consult an attorney."

Details of the oral admission of the crime allegedly made by Ashcraft and the signed confession reportedly made by Ware were not divulged by investigators.

Negro Tells Weird Tale

It was reported, however, that during questioning by deputies the negro told a weird tale of being employed for $50 to $100 to "do away with" the victim.

The negro related, it was reported, that he had been told by Ashcraft that Mrs. Ashcraft was in California and that he (Ashcraft) wanted to "get rid of that woman" at the Ashcraft home at 3520 Stanton Road "before Mrs. Ashcraft gets back."

Late on the night of June 5, perhaps after midnight, Ware is reported to have related that he went to the Ashcraft home to execute the cold-blooded killing.

Acting under instructions from Ashcraft, the negro told officers, he waited in the Ashcraft kitchen for two hours while a party was going on in the front rooms of the house.

Ware is reported to have told investigators that Ashcraft had him emerge from the kitchen after the guests had left and pretend that a holdup was in progress. This was on part of the prearranged scheme of disposing of the victim, the negro is reported to have related.

Ware didn't pull a gun, but went through with the "hoax" robbery and ordered both Ashcraft and his 40-year-old wife into the Ashcraft car, according to reports.

In the car, the negro declared, he occupied the front seat with Mrs. Ashcraft, while Ashcraft rode in the rear seat. Mrs. Ashcraft drove.

Ordering her to stop near the approach of the new Wolf River bridge, the negro is reported to have ordered the Ashcrafts from the machine. Carrying out the hoax robbery, the negro then threatened to drown both Ashcraft and his wife.

Ashcraft, the negro related, then grabbed his wife and shouted to Ware:

"Let her have it!"

Used "Big White Stone"

The negro said, it was reported, that he took a "big white stone" and started beating Mrs. Ashcraft's head.

A few minutes later, the body was tossed into the slough and the negro is said to have told of throwing rocks at the floating body.

Despite the sheriff's announcement that Ware has signed a confession telling of his part in the murder, William A. McTighe, his attorney, said yesterday the negro had changed his plea to not guilty.

"I believe Ware will be able to explain his position a lot better after the facts come out," Mr. McTighe said.

Fixes Scene of Killing

Sheriff Joyner definitely fixed the scene of the killing as the lonely slough near the new Raleigh Bridge.

"We believe they tried to drown her first," the sheriff said. "When she started to struggle, they picked up a rock and beat her over the head six times."

The autopsy on Mrs. Ashcraft's body revealed enough water in her lungs to indicate that she may have died of drowning, the sheriff's office previously had announced. Yesterday Sheriff Joyner said the autopsy showed where the murdered woman had been struck six times on the head and announced he believed the hole in the back of her crown probably was caused by the sharp point of a rock.

Return To The Scene

Deputies Key and Becker with Robert Ezzell, investigator on the attorney general's staff, yesterday visited the desolate scene near the Raleigh Bridge to re-enact how the state claims Ashcraft and the negro attempted to drown the comely housewife, then bludgeoned her on the head.

The slough is divided by a narrow ridge so it appears to be two pools of water, deep enough to attract fishermen to its banks.

At the foot of the dirt road that runs into the West pool, the deputies claim was the spot where Ware admitted helping Ashcraft throw the body of Mrs. Ashcraft into the water. When she struggled, apparently arousing from the effects of the drugs used in sleeping medicines that were found in her organs, deputies said she was beaten on the head with a rock.

The three investigators then indicated the position, about 100 feet from the point where the body was reported to have been tossed into the water, where a trio of fishermen found it the following afternoon.

The sheriff revealed yesterday that in his oral statement, Ashcraft told of domestic troubles with his wife.

"He told us he offered her $1500, the house and the car if she would leave him," the sheriff said. "She just laughed at him, Ashcraft told us."

Defense Ready To Fight

Both Mr. Rhem and Harold Norcross, attorney and former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, said they were preparing to attack the state claims of an oral confession and declared:

"Mr. Ashcraft believes a full investigation will reveal him to be entirely innocent."

Sheriff Joyner, however, reiterated:

"The statements of both men were made in the presence of reputable citizens who are involved in no way. They are connected in no way with the city, county or state governments."

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

DEPUTY SAYS NEGRO ADMITTED HE GOT $50 IN ASHCRAFT MURDER

Judge Hamner Denies Petition For Habeas Corpus Writ Filed By Relatives

'THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR'

Three Citizens Present When Ware Made Statement

CONFLICT OVER COUNSEL

Husband Of Slain Housewife Thanks Friends For Confidence—Assures Them He'll Be Proved Innocent

By DAVE M'CONNELL

John Ware, negro laborer, admitted in the presence of E. E. Ashcraft and three prominent Memphians that he was paid $50 by Mr. Ashcraft to kill his wife Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft, Deputy Sheriff George Becker testified yesterday at a habeas corpus hearing in Judge Hamner's Circuit Court.

The deputy said Everett J. Pidgeon, vice president of the Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Nelson Castle, vice president of the Manhattan Branch of the Union Planters National Bank & Trust Co., and Dr. J. A. McQuiston were witnesses to the oral confession.

Relatives File Petition

The habeas corpus petition was filed by relatives of Ware, who is charged with first degree murder in connection with the Raleigh slough slaying of Mrs. Ashcraft, who lived at 3520 Stanton Road. The petition was denied by Judge Hamner and a request for bail refused on grounds that evidence produced yesterday "is clear and the presumption of guilt great."

The hearing opened yesterday afternoon with a statement by Asst. Atty. Gen. Preston Battle that a conflict has developed over the right of Attorney William F. McTighe Jr., who brought the habeas corpus action, to represent Ware.

"I am stating heresay evidence now," Atty. Gen. Battle told the court, "but we are prepared to prove that the Bar Association Grievance Committee is investigating the manner in which Mr. McTighe has been employed."

Attorney Protests

The statement brought a protest from the negro's attorney that he had been retained to assist Ware by V. F. Smith of the Hogan Construction Co., former employer of both the negro and Ashcraft, who also is charged with first degree murder.

Members of the negro's family appeared in the courtroom. The petition was sought in their names by Mr. McTighe and sworn to by them.

But, while the legal skirmish over Mr. McTighe's right to represent the negro more than an hour, it was left to Deputy Becker to provide the day's newest developments in the case.

Got Ware From Bed

Identifying himself as one of the investigators who took the statements from the negro and questioned Ashcraft, Deputy Becker also outlined the state's story of the negro's arrest.

He told of going with other deputies to Oreole Street about 1 a.m. Monday morning and getting Ware out of bed.

"He was in bed and undressed when we arrested him," Mr. Becker said. "We took him to the fifth floor of the County Jail."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
June 21, 1941

NEGRO SLAYINGS

The circumstances in connection with the eighteenth homicide to occur among Negroes in Chattanooga this year seem to have followed a familiar pattern. A husband and wife quarreled, and the wife hit the husband with a piece of iron grating, killing him almost instantly. The woman was arrested and charged with murder. Without speculating on the probable disposition of the case, it is permissible to recall that in only one case involving the charge of murder has a Negro been sentenced to death, and the sentence in that case was passed after the defendant was convicted on a charge of having murdered a white woman.

Not all the homicide cases involving Negroes have been disposed of by the courts. Two of the killings were held justified. Another slayer was sentenced to serve eleven months and twenty-nine days when convicted on a charge of assault; still another was sentenced to serve a year and a day and in another case, the slayer was sentenced to serve ten years. Granting that the circumstances in each of those cases may have called for precisely the penalty imposed, it is not encouraging to recall that the Negro now facing death for murdering a white woman had killed two Negroes and had served a prison sentence.

The answer to the problem raised by these murders among Negroes has not been found primarily because there continues to be a feeling of apathy on the part of the white population. Prevented from serving on juries which consider the crimes and misdemeanors of the members of their race, the Negroes are unable to exercise the discipline which many of their leaders would like to enforce. The homicide rate among them so far this year compares favorably with the rate for 1940 when a total of sixty-one Negroes were slain; but that favorable comparison cannot be said to grow out of a determined and effective effort to deal with a situation which is primarily the responsibility of those who control the machinery of the courts.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

HIT-AND-RUN AUTOIST KILLS TWO NEGRO BOYS

Joyner Offers $100 Reward After Bodies Are Found On Road In County

Two 17-year-old negro boys were fatally injured by a hit-run driver early yesterday morning on the Horn Lake Road near Holmes, bringing the county's traffic deaths to 30 for the year.

The double fatalities brought the immediate offer of a $100 reward by Sheriff Joyner for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the auto driver, and his announcement that he would ask for another county squad car at the meeting this morning of the County Court.

No Clues to Driver

"We have absolutely no clues to the identity of the car driver and the reward is the only means we have of possibly securing a lead to the cowardly driver," Sheriff Joyner said. "The request for a third county squad car will be made to give us a car each for the northern, eastern and southern sections of the county.

"At present two cars must patrol the 1500 miles of county gravel and hard-surfaced roads, irrespective of the paved highways in the county. We hope a third car and the 50-mile an hour speed limit recently put into effect will help us curtail the mounting traffic deaths."

The negroes were Leroy Garrett of Magnolia Farms on the old Horn Lake Road, and Clarence Smith of South Holmes.

Found In Middle Of Road

They were found about 5 a.m. lying in the middle of the Horn Lake Road between Holmes and Shelby Drive, about 500 yards south of Pesce Grocey Store, according to Deputies Meek and Banks. The pair was discovered by Robert Sharp, 784 Washington, who was driving his car. He notified the sheriff's office.

Deputies said they could find no witnesses. A nearby resident said he saw a black sedan turn around about 4:45 a.m. near the spot where the boys were lying.

Smith was dead on arrival of the deputies, and Garrett, whose skull was crushed in the back, died as he was being placed in an S. W. Qualls ambulance, according to deputies. They reported the position of the bodies and Garrett's broken skull indicated the boys had been struck from the rear.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

2 Boys Found Dead In Tenn.; Fear Foul Play

Crushed Bodies Found on Old Horn Lake Road

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (SNS)— The two boys whose bodies were found crushed on the old Horn Lake Road early this week and believed to have been victims of hit-run drivers may have met with foul play, reports of Sheriff's office indicated.

With the discovery of the youngsters, Leroy Garnett and Clarence Smith, both 17, residents on the Magnolia Farm, Horn Lake Road, Sheriff Joyner announced a reward of $100 for information leading to or giving whereabouts of the person or persons responsible for the youths death. He likewise petitioned the Shelby County commission for another squad car with which to more thoroughly police the highways and roads of the county.

While investigations into the case deepened deputies learned from Negro residents in the neighborhood that Garnett and Smith had been in a fight earlier Sunday night with Volley Robinson, Joe Lee Bell, Frank Jackson, Joe Willie Phillips, Dave Veasey. One of the boys was heard to say that he was going to kill his adversary. It could not be learned which one of the two boys he had reference to. Several hours later, Smith and Garnett were found dead in the old Horn Lake Road.

Smith suffered a broken right arm, as well as internal injuries. He was dead when an ambulance arrived. Garnett's skull was broken in the back. He died as ambulance attaches were putting him in the car.

Robert Sharp, white, 784 Washington, discovered the boys and notified the Sheriff's office.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

Confesses Slaying, But Records Show Him in Prison at Time

MEMPHIS, Aug. 16 (ANP).—Although Charles Ware has confessed to the slaying in 1937 of Felix Presson, white, special agent for the N. C. and St. L. Railroad, records of the State Prison in Nashville show he was there at the time serving a three to seven-year sentence for grand larceny.

Ware currently is serving a seven to 10-year term at Sing Sing following his conviction in New York on charges of carrying concealed weapons and assaulting an officer. Since being there, he has made a voluntary confession describing the shooting in accurate detail, admitting ownership of the .32 pistol used in the slaying, describing his movement before and after the killing and exhibiting a scar on his hand from one of the agent's bullets.

The prison records were held incorrect. Ware said he was on parole from the penitentiary at the time of the killing. The prison has no record of his parole.

Ware has been indicted by the county grand jury for the murder and efforts are being made to extradite him from New York.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MOTORIST IS INDICTED IN PEDESTRIAN'S DEATH

Walter L. Lockhart Accused Of Second Degree Murder

ALLEGEDLY SWERVED CAR

Similar Count Is Returned Against Edward Kyle, Alias William Walker, By Shelby County Grand Jury

Walter L. Lockhart, 30, of 721 Scott, driver of the car which struck and killed John William Bridgewater, 63, negro pedestrian, at Broad and Vandalia on Oct. 27, was indicted yesterday by the Shelby County Grand Jury on a second degree murder charge.

Lockhart allegedly swerved his car to the wrong side of Broad and hit the pedestrian. Police charge that skid marks made by his car indicated excessive speed.

Edward Kye Indicted

A second degree murder indictment also was returned against Edward Kyle, alias William Walker, 32, of 747 Cooper, whose car allegedly struck a parked auto Oct. 26, on Highway 51, resulting in the death of C. T. Neal of Covington, a passenger in the Kyle vehicle.

Three motorists were indicted on charges of drunk driving. They are Thomas M. House, 39, of 1836 Mignon, arrested Nov. 9 on McLemore; L. E. Tatum, 33, of 254 Burdock, arrested Nov. 9 on Highway 61, and F. E. Ritchie, 36, of 1200 Overton Park, arrested Nov. 8 on Poplar.

The Grand Jury ignored a drunk driving charge against Ernest Marsh, 30, of 90 North McLean, arrested Oct. 27 on Edwards.

33-1941

TENNESSEE

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Motorman Slays Passenger; Court Finds Only Crime Was Having A Gun

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Clinton Holder white, electric street coach operator who shot and fatally wounded David Love, 58, a passenger, during an altercation aboard the vehicle last week, was tried and fined $51 in city court, Wednesday on the charge of carrying a pistol.

Holder was tried in city court before Judge Bateman on the pistol carrying charge only. When he was arrested and arranged before Squire Tom Phillips, last week, he posted a $51 dish bond for his appearance in city court and was held to the state on a charge of assault to murder.

The case drew wide attention and cast a bit of uneasiness among Race citizens of Memphis.

Holder's case was originally scheduled for Tuesday of last week and was continued until Wednesday to determine the question brought to the court's attention by his lawyer. The question was "Is the operator of a trolley legally in his place of business and entitled to possess a gun for his own protection?"

MAY 3 - 1941

Ed Kuhn, assistant city attorney, citing similar cases, discounted as not pertinent the "place of business and protection angle." He asserted that Holder had violated the city ordinance which specifies that a man cannot carry a pistol.

The trouble started when Holder refused to accept a torn street car transfer from Love. It is reported that Love paid his fare but later when Holder refused to accept a transfer from Mrs. Elma Lee Dillard, 38, because it was not the proper transfer point, Love came forward to intervene.

Holder said, "We struggled and he was bending over backwards over the vestibule railing when I snatched the gun from the bag and fired once. We fell in the aisle. Then we got up. Not knowing I had shot him, I fired the second time."

Just before David Love died at the John Gaston hospital, he gave a different version of the story to his wife, Mrs. David Love. He said, "I had gone up to the front part of the car to get the number of the bus operator when the trouble started. When the operator looked up he said to me, 'What in the h—l you want old Negro, trying to get my badge number?' and reached for his pistol in a little bag nearby. He shot and the bullet hit me. I then tried to hit him with my umbrella, but it struck the top of the bus, and then I was struck by someone else. I think it was the other white man passenger. We scuffled a while on the floor and I was shot again then we rolled to the pavement after someone opened the door of the trolley."

There were two white passengers aboard the bus at the time, a Mrs. C. W. Sanders, and a Nathan Wagner.

MAY 3 - 1941

The shooting aboard the bus threw the patrons into a panic that resulted in a stampede. Some were knocked down and trampled. Among those requiring medical attention were Mrs. Corrine Hailey and Mrs. Pearline Clark.

Mrs. Dillard was fined $26 in city court on a charge of disturbing the peace. She said the bus operator was very abusive to her and said "Hurry up nigger woman."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 17, 1941

THE REED CONVICTION

The verdict of murder in the first degree without a recommendation which a jury returned on Friday in the case of Walter Reed, 60-year-old Negro charged with the slaying of Mrs. Jane Fowler Cathey, means that unless a new trial is granted and another jury comes to a different conclusion, Reed will pay with his life for a brutal crime. In the circumstances, it is hard to understand how the jury could have returned any other verdict. There is one phase of the case, however, which helps explain why there have been so few convictions on the charge of murder in this county. If Reed is electrocuted, he will be the first person subjected to the death penalty in eight years.

The law makes a wise distinction between murder in the first degree, that is to say, premeditated murder, and murder which can be said to have grown out of circumstances that tend to mitigate the crime. The test is premeditation; if it is proved "beyond a reasonable doubt" that the accused committed murder according to a prearranged plan or after deliberation, a jury is not permitted to hold that opinion and recommend punishment less severe than the death penalty.

The lawyers appointed by the Court to defend Walter Reed went considerably further than lawyers commonly go in such cases. In cases involving revolting crimes, particularly when the victim is a white person and the accused is a Negro, the defending lawyer is concerned not with making out a case for the accused—especially if, as in the case of Reed, the accused has confessed the crime—but is interested solely in making certain that the defendant is protected in every right to which he is constitutionally entitled. In their defense of Reed, however, the lawyers appointed by the State went further. Their position was stated by Mr. Sam J. McAllester:

> Our plea of not guilty in this case is on the grounds that the defendant is not guilty as charged in the indictment of first-degree murder. * * * Walter's not crazy. He never had enough mind to be crazy; to be insane you have to be sane to start with. You see before you here a person who is one step above an animal. He is what I would call subnormal, not abnormal.

The argument, then, was that Reed did not commit a premeditated murder because he was incapable mentally of the concentration necessary to plan and carry out the attack of which Mrs. Cathey was a victim. Under the law, if Reed killed Mrs. Cathey in a sudden burst of anger he would be subject to a severe penalty but not to the death penalty. There was one passage in the testimony, however, which obviously convinced the jury that the line which the law draws between premeditated murder and murder of a lesser degree had been overstepped by Reed. Another Negro testified that several days before the murder, Reed had told him of having been ordered off the Cathey place because of being "too full" of liquor. According to the witness, Reed said he would "get even with them."

There was the basis for the finding of premeditation. Even if the slaying occurred at a moment when Reed had become angry and when the immediate circumstances suggested that the crime was almost casual, the slayer's actions were conditioned by the state of mind which had caused him on a previous occasion to say of the person he killed that he would "get even." Conceding that the lawyers appointed to defend Reed conducted themselves in a fashion which reflects credit on the legal profession, it still must seem to most observers that the jury found the motivation which justified a finding of premeditation within the strictest legal concept of that condition.

The trial itself and the verdict constitute a striking contrast with every one of the long line of criminal cases which involve Negroes to

[illegible] exclusion of white people. If [illegible]s, lawyers, juries, and the public were half as careful to sift the facts and assess just penalties in cases in which Negroes commit crimes of violence against members of their own race, this community would be a great deal more law-abiding. What would have been the verdict in the Reed case if the victim had been a Negro? Without undertaking to suggest an answer, it is interesting to note that Walter Reed, whom a jury found guilty of first-degree murder after deliberating for only fifteen minutes, has killed two other persons, both Negroes. If the crimes of violence he had already committed had been punished with due regard for the value of human life under our laws, Walter Reed would not have had the opportunity to murder Mrs. Cathey.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Tennesseean, 60, Gets Death Penalty

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (SNS)—Walter Reed, 60, Saturday had been convicted of first-degree murder in the baseball-bat slaying of a Chattanooga white woman.

MAY 18 1941

The jury deliberated only 15 minutes. The verdict, which carries the death penalty, was the first returned by a jury here in eight years.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

WOMAN FOUND SLAIN IN RALEIGH SLOUGH; VALUABLES MISSING

Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft, Wife Of Engineer, Is Victim Of Killer

HOLE IN BACK OF HEAD

She Had Left Her Home In Auto Early Yesterday

$140 AND RING GONE

Body Found In Water by Fishermen — Passerby Reports Seeing Negro in Car at Approximate Time of Crime

Floating face down in a slough near the new Raleigh Bridge, the body of Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft of 3520 Stanton Road was found yes-

terday afternoon. Apparently she had been murdered.

A hole the size of a quarter was in the top of her head, near the back, and there were skin injuries on her nose.

Wife Of Engineer

Mrs. Ashcraft, 40, was the wife of E. E. Ashcraft, engineer for the Korsmo Construction Co. Her husband worked yesterday and was at home when Sheriff's Deputies Davis and Meteer notified him of finding the body.

He said she left at 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning to visit her mother at Nashville, and that $140 she had with her as well as a diamond ring she wore are missing.

Mr. Ashcraft was questioned at the County Jail by Deputies Becker and Key.

The car, a 1939 blue Dodge sedan, was standing on the highway about 150 feet south of the bridge with Mrs. Ashcraft's driver's license on the running board when her body was found.

Car Headed Wrong Way

At about 3:35 a.m. yesterday, Charles Simpson, mailing room employe of The Commercial Appeal, noticed the car because it was on the highway shoulder headed in the wrong direction. No one was in sight near it.

Ten minutes later, John McDonald, mailing room foreman, passed and slowed down thinking someone was having automobile trouble.

"A negro was in the car," Mr. McDonald said. "He got out of the left door and walked around to the gas tank." Mr. McDonald drove on.

The keys were in the car when the body was found. On the front seat was her black straw hat. In the rear was her suitcase and a blanket.

Victim Fully Clothed

She was fully clothed and still wearing her glasses.

Only her hair and back were showing above the water and two young men had been fishing in the slough without seeing the body. Leroy Cates, 29, employe of the Hartwell Brothers handle plant in Hollywood, noticed the body, 25 to 30 feet from the bank, when he went to his boat, tied in the slough, at 4:45 o'clock.

In Wolf River Bottoms

The slough is in the Wolf River bottoms across the river south of Raleigh.

JUN 6 1941

Bill Hartledge and Junior Vinson, also Hartwell employes, were the fishermen. They doubted whether the floating object was a body when it was pointed out and Cates went out in a boat to be sure. He called back for Hartledge and Vinson to get officers before the body was touched.

Cates and Deputy Meteer removed it from the water. It was taken to the Collins Funeral Home while deputies continued their investigation.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

JUN 27 1941

ASHCRAFT MUST STAY IN JAIL UNTIL TRIAL

Accused Slayer Of Wife Fails In Habeas Corpus Action

ATTORNEY MAY APPEAL

Testimony By Deputy Becker Brings Out Further Details Of Murder Of Housewife At Raleigh Slough

By DAVE M'CONNELL

Poker-faced E. E. Ashcraft, charged with the first degree murder of his wife, was remanded to the Shelby County Jail without bond yesterday by Circuit Judge Harry Adams after he failed in an attempt to obtain a writ of habeas corpus that would have brought his freedom pending trial of his case.

He sat through the hearing without once changing the set expression on his face and seemed unconcerned when Deputy Sheriff George Becker testified that it was Ashcraft's own statement that led to the arrest of John Ware, negro the state charges Ashcraft hired to participate in the murder of Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft of 3520 Stanton Road.

The hearing yesterday enlarged on details of Ware's signed confession.

Challenged Jurisdiction

It was marked by a preliminary legal skirmish in which Atty. Gen. Will Gerber sought to have the application dismissed by challenging the court's jurisdiction. Although failing, he succeeded in blocking an attempt by Ashcraft's attorneys to call Sheriff Guy Joyner, who headed the murder investigation, to the witness stand.

Testimony of the sheriff was foresetlled on the basis of a Supreme Court decision holding witnesses who appeared before the Grand Jury must first be summoned in a habeas corpus action. Deputy Sheriff George Becker was the only witness to appear before the jury in the murder case.

Deputy Testifies

Deputy Becker's testimony concerning the murder follows:

Q. You were present when the negro Ware gave a signed statement?

A. Yes.

Q. What did he say?

A. He stated Ashcraft offered him $100 to kill his wife, that he was paid $50 and wos owed $50. He said Ashcraft was present and helped kill his wife.

Q. Was the defendant Ashcraft present when this statemnet was made?

A. He w

Q. What did the defendant Ashcraft say?

A. He admitted he had hired the negro and tried to get him to change his story and say he was not with him when the murder took place.

Q. Did the defendant Ashcraft say how Ware knew Mrs. Ashcraft was to make a trip?

A. He said he had told the negro.

Q. Did the negro say he stayed around the house (3520 Stanton Road) before the killing?

A. He did. He told of sitting on the running board of the Ashcraft car for two or three hours waiting for her to come out.

Q. Did he say whre Ashcraft was? ....

A. In the car with him part of the time.

Q. In the car?

A. Yes.

Q. How did the negro say he got Mrs. Ashcraft?

A. He said she walked out to the car with Ashcraft. When she saw him, Ware said she tried to escape.

Q. What did he say happened then?

A. Ashcraft asked her if she wanted both of them to get killed, and stopped her. (The state previously charged Ashcraft and the negro framed a fake holdup scene).

Deputy Becker explained the negro told of driving out the Raleigh Road from the Ashcraft place. His testimony continues:

Q. How did the negro say Mrs. Ashcraft was killed?

A. He said he tried to throw her in the pond. She struggled and when she screamed he said Ashcraft handed him a chunk of concrete and said, "Finish the job."

Q. Didd Ashcraft make a statement?

A. He made a statement, but wouldn't sign it.

Here Mr. Becker told of Ashcraft being picked up for questioning by sheriff's deputies about 7 p.m., June 14, and making the oral confession about 7 a.m., June 16. He told of investigators questioning the 44-year-old drag line operator in relays of "two at a time."

Didn't Know About Sleep

JUN 27 1941

Asked if Ashcraft got any sleep between the time he was picked up for questioning and made the oral confession, Mr. Becker said:

"I couldn't tell. I would go home after questioning him."

It was at 1 a.m. June 14 that Ashcraft finally stated he hired Ware to kill his wife, according to Mr. Becker's testimony. He told of investigators sending out to pick up Ware at his home on Oriole Street and bringing him to the jail for questioning. It was not more than 10 or 15 minutes later that the negro gave his statement, Mr. Becker said. He was dismissed and Mr. Rhem again attempted to call the sheriff.

Stopping further questioning of witnesses, Judge Adams held:

"The testimony of Mr. Becker was given in a straight forward manner without hesitation. From his testimony I find the proof of guilt evident and presumption great."

Defense Makes Claim

Following the decision, Mr. Rhem told the court, "We expect to prove by Sheriff Joyner that Mr. Ashcraft stated continually that he was not guilty and that he made no oral statement of his guilt."

Mr. Rhem also announced intentions of appealing the court's decision to teh State Supreme Court in an effort to free Ashcraft during the Summer months he must remain in jail pending opening of the Criminal Courts in September.

If the appeal is taken, it will include argument on Atty. Gen. Gerber's challenge of the Circuit Court's jurisdiction to hear habeas corpus writ applications.

He based his challenge on grounds that the Circuit Courts in Shelby have jurisdiction over civil matters, while the Criminal Courts are charged with handling of criminal cases.

Questions Authority

JUN 27 1941

Circuit Courts have authority to act on petitions for writs of habeas corpus only in the rural counties where the circuit judges are charged with handling both criminal and civil matter, he claimed. The atorney general conended the the Criminal Courts here have exclusive jurisdiction over criminal matters.

"We feel three is some reason why the relator should dodge the Criminal Courts of this county to come over here," Mr. Gerber declared.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

HEARING CONTINUED IN ASHCRAFT CASE

No Action Taken On Habeas Corpus Petition

SHERIFF OUT OF CITY

Set For 3:30 This Afternoon—Drag Line Operator Seeks Freedom Pending His Trial —Charged On Two Counts

Circuit Judge Harry Adams yesterday continued hearing of a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for E. E. Ashcraft, charged with the murder of his attractive wife, until 3:30 o'clock this afternoon.

JUN 27 1941

Sam Rhem Jr. and Harold Norcross, attorneys for the 44-year-old drag line operator, requested the postponement after they learned Sheriff Guy Joyner, who directed the murder investigation, was out of the city. Atty. Gen. Will Gerber did not oppose the move, explaining the sheriff is expected back from Nashville this afternoon.

Business Men To Testify

Meanwhile, Mr. Rhem revealed he expected to call Nelson Castle, a vice president of the Manhattan Branch of the Union Planters National Bank & Trust Co., and one of his business men the state said witnessed an oral confession by Ashcraft to the slaying.

He also indicated he intended to place Everett Pidgeon, vice president of the Coca-Cola Bottling Co., also present when the alleged oral confession was made, on the witness stand. Both men are under subpoenas.

Public Interest Is High

The public interest in the case was evidenced yesterday by the crowds that poured into Judge Adams' courtroom before 9:30 a.m.

Handcuffed and appearing unconcerned, Ashcraft was taken from the Shelby County Jail by Chief Deputy Sheriff Perry. With John Ware, negro the state claims he hired to help kill his wife, Ashcraft faces charges in a two-count indictment JUN 6 1941 claiming he killed Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft of 3520 Stanton Road and served as an accessory before the fact by planning the murder with the negro.

Her body was found floating face down in a slough near the new Raleigh Road Bridge the afternoon of June 5.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Police Bullet Slays Autoist

JAN 2 1 1941

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—Roosevelt Edinborough, 36, 794 Randle, Buckeye Cotton Oil Company employee, evidently bled to death from gun-shot wound in the right thigh, when he was struck by a bullet fired by Squad Car Patrolman Eardle Pate, while attempting to flee from arrest, Monday evening around six o'clock.

Edinborough was said by officers to have been speeding on Jackson Avenue when Motorcycle Officer J. M. Massey tried to stop him. Edinborough was in a car with Johnny Glanton, 813 Alaska Street. Instead of stopping for the motorcycle officer, Edinborough is said to have sped-up going down Bellevue St. A call was sent to police headquarters for a squad car to be sent. Officers Pate and W. O. Smith were sent out. They went to Edinborough's home. One officer went to the rear door, the other to the front.

Patrolman Pate, who was at the rear door, said Edinborough ran out of the door and knocked him down in an attempt to get away. The policeman drew his gun and shot Edinborough in the leg.

Edinborough died about an hour later at John Gaston hospital. It was said that the bullet severed an artery in Edinborough's leg. He lost a great deal of blood, between the time he was shot and an ambulance arrived to take him to the hospital.

The slain man had been in some minor trouble with the police before, having recently been fined $51 for violating the speed law, and last summer being fined for participation in a dice game, according to police reports.

Both Edinborough and Glanton were said to have been drinking prior to the shooting last Tuesday night.

Edinborough is survived by his wife, a 14-month old baby, a 16-year old son, and a nine-year old step-child, besides other relatives.

Police authorities were quoted as absolving Patrolman Pate of blame in the shooting.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Tennessee Cop Is Charged In Death Of Colored Youth

JAN 1 1941

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — (ANP) — Policeman Ted Blivens is charged with murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Charles Davis on the night of December 11, 1940.

The 20-year-old youth claimed before he died at the General Hospital the day before Christmas that he was on his way home when a car bearing policemen came up along beside him demanding him to stop. The men in the car threw a spotlight in his face and began firing.

Shot In Back As He Fled

The boy added that he ran until struck in the back by what he thought was a pop bottle as he fell. One of the bullets ploughed through his abdomen injuring vital organs.

He died two weeks after the shooting despite the administration of several blood transfusions at the hospital to which he was later taken.

The two colored groups who have asserted that they will aid in the prosecution of Blevins are the Citizens Defense Council and the Inter-denominational Ministers, Alliance, who have approved the investigation of the shooting being conducted by George Smith, a member of the defense council.

The case of Blevins came up in city court on January 4, but Dr. Charles Davis, Sr., father of the slain boy, and a dentist here for more than 25 years, has had a murder warrant issued in sessions court for Blevins which is pending the clearance of the case in city court.

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

SLAYING CLEWS SIFTED IN HUNT

APR 16 1941

Police Seek Gardener In Death Of Matron At Chattanooga

(From Yesterday's Final Edition)

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., April 14—(AP)—Police ran down scores of futile clews Monday in their search for the aged Negro ex-convict indicted for clubbing to death a comely Chattanooga matron in the living room of her home.

Numerous calls were received at the station reporting the Negro had been seen during the day in the fashionable neighborhood where Mrs. Jane Fowler Cathey, 37, was beaten to death last Saturday with a baseball bat. Police intensified their search in the area but without result.

APR 16 1941

Detective Chief Marion Perkins reported the Hamilton County Grand Jury returned an indictment for murder against Walter Reed, 55-year-old Negro who was employed by the Catheys as gardener and part-time house servant. Perkins said the Negro had a long police record which included acquittal when he was captured several years after the killing of a Negro youth, a 12-year penitentiary sentence for the slaying of his wife and a workhouse sentence for the stabbing of a Negro woman and her daughter.

Police revealed during the day that rewards totaling $700 had been offered in the case. The state posted a $500 reward, dependent upon arrest and conviction, while the city and a group of Chattanoogans offered $100 each for information leading to the arrest of Reed.

The partially nude body of Mrs. Cathey, wife of Robert A. Cathey who is superintendent of the Chattanooga Traction Company, was found Saturday afternoon by her 11-year-old adopted daughter a few hours after she had been killed.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Knoxville Youth Slain By Police

JAN 6 1941

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., (ANP)—Policeman Ted Blevins is charged with murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Charles Davis on the night of December 11, 1940.

The 20-yearold youth claimed before he died at the General hospital the day before Christmas that he was on his way home when a car bearing policemen came up along beside him demanding him to stop. The men in the car threw a spotlight in his face and began firing.

The boy added that he ran until struck in the back by what he thought was a pop bottle as he fell. One of the bullets ploughed through his abdomen injuring vital organs.

He died two weeks after the shooting despite the administration of several blood tranfusions later taken.

The two colored groups who have asserted that they will aid in the prosecution of Belvins are the Citizens Defense Council and the Inter-denominational Ministers' alliance, who have approved the investigation of the shooting being conducted by George Smith, a member of the defense council.

The case of Belvins came up in city court on January 4, but Dr. Charles Davis, Sr. father of the slain boy and a dentist here for more than 25 years, has had a murder warrant issued in sessions court for Belvins, which is pending the clearance of the case in city court.

Attorney George Smith in commenting on the case said: 'The Negroes of Knoxville feel that they have had more than their share of brutality and mistreatment and that something must be done about it. Negro churches in the city are planning to hold protest meetings over the murder of young Davis."

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

Chattanooga Has 'Thou Shalt Not Kill' Mass Meet

MAR 2 1 1941

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., March (ANP)—A mass meeting and drama entitled "Thou Shalt Not Kill," inspired in an effort to decrease the murder rate among Negroes here, attracted wide attention from both races when presented Sunday afternoon at New Monumental Baptist church. White and colored leaders were present to discuss the homicide rate and means of reducing it.

Mrs. Katie E. Smith, local Associated Negro Press correspondent, was credited with conceiving both the program and drama which helped put across the "Thou shalt not kill" message.

MAR 21 1941

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

MEMPHIS COP KILLS NEGRO SPEEDER--IS EXONERATED

JAN 24 1941

MEMPHIS. (ANP).—Carroll Seabrook, chief of police in Memphis where relationships between the races have recently become strained following the picketing of Dr. J. B. Martin's drugstore by uniformed officers, increased the tension Tuesday as he exonerated Patrolman Earl Pate, who the night before had shot and killed Roosevelt Edinborough, 36, charged with speeding.

According to Seabrook, Pate shot Edinborough as the latter ran into and knocked him down fleeing from his home to avoid arrest on a speeding charge. Edinborough, a few hours before, had fled to his home when a motorcycle officer tried to arrest him for speeding on a local street.

Pate's bullet struck Edinborough in the right thigh. He died at the John Gaston hospital about an hour later. The missle had pierced an artery.

In exonerating Pate, the police chief said the officer was "acting in the line of duty."

Chattanooga Tenn., Daily Times
February 4, 1941

4 COLORED HOMICIDES HERE IN THE NEW YEAR

The fourth colored homicide of the year for Chattanooga was recorded yesterday after N. B. Boston, of 2240 Cowart street, died in a local hospital as the result of being shot Saturday night at Twenty-second and Cowart streets with a 12-gauge shotgun by Susie Goodrich, also colored, of 2316 St. Elmo avenue, Homicide Detective E E. Smith said yesterday.

Dan Boston, 58-year-old Negro, was held on $1,000 bond yesterday morning charged with disorderly conduct. Boston ran into the street waving a shotgun, police said. He said he didn't want N. B. Boston taken to the hospital by the ambulance attendants, it is alleged.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MOTION TO FREE NEGRO IN SLAYING IS FILED

OCT 16 1941

Petition Seeks To Quash Indictment Against Ware

A motion to quash the first degree murder indictment against John Ware, 20-year-old negro whom the state claims E. E. Ashcraft hired to kill Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft will be heard at 9:30 o'clock tomorrow morning by Criminal Court Judge Wallace.

The motion was filed in Criminal Court Tuesday on grounds that the foreman of the Grand Jury which returned the indictments was ineligible to serve.

The petition, filed by William A. McTighe Jr., attorney for Ware, charges that J. Thomas Wellford, Grand Jury foreman, served as a juror for several terms within the two years next preceding the returning of the indictments against Ware, which is contrary to law.

The Tennessee Code provides "in effect that any juror may be challenged for cause who 'has served as a juror for one term within the two years next preceeding'" and another section of the code provides that the foreman of the Grand Jury shall possess all the qualifications of a juror, the petition charges.

Mr. McTighe and Sam Rhem Jr., who represents Mr. Ashcraft, also filed a petition in Criminal Court asking that the attorney general's office be required to indorse on each indictment the names of the witnesses which it intends to summon in the trial. The petition apparently was filed in hopes of preventing any surprise witnesses being called in connection with the trial.

OCT 16 1941

Ashcraft and Ware are scheduled to face trial Oct. 27. The body of Mrs. Ashcraft was found floating in a slough near the new Raleigh Bridge the afternoon of June 5.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Spotlight Killing In Knoxville Has Aroused Community

JAN 11 1941

Twenty-Year-Old Son of Prominent Dentist Dies From Wounds—Murder Warrant Issued.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 9—(ANP)—Policeman Ted Blivens is charged with murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Charles Davis on the night of Dec. 11, 1940.

The 20-year-old youth claimed before he died at the general hospital the day before Christmas that he was on his way home when a car bearing policemen came up along beside him, demanding him to stop. The men in the car threw a spotlight in his face and began firing.

The boy added that he ran until struck in the back by what he thought was a pop bottle as he fell. One of the bullets ploughed through his abdomen, injuring vital organs.

He died two weeks after the shooting, despite the administration of several blood transfusions at the hospital to which he was later taken.

The two colored groups who have asserted that they will aid in the prosecution of Blevins are the Citizens' Defense Council and the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, who have approved the investigation of the shooting being conducted by George Smith, a member of the Defense Council.

The case of Blevins came up in City court on January 4, but Dr. Charles Davis Sr., father of the slain boy, and a dentist here for more than 25 years, has had a murder warrant issued in Sessions court for Blevins, which is pending the clearance of the case in City court.

Attorney George Smith, in commenting on the case, said: "The Negroes of Knoxville feel that hey have had more than their share of brutality and mistreatment and that something must be done about it. Negro churches in the city are planning to hold protest meetings over the murder of young Davis."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Homicides Arouse Knoxville Folks

NOV 15 1941

KNOXVILLE, Tenn (ANP) — A mammoth mass meeting held Sunday at Vine Avenue Christian church had for its theme, "What Knoxville Negroes Can Do About Crime Among Negroes." The meeting was sponsored by the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People following 11 homicides in this mountain city within recent weeks all of which envolved Negroes.

NOV 15 1941

Rev. B. B. Evans, president of the branch, in a very foreful manner charged lax law enforcement as the greatest contributing factor. Principal M. D. Senter of the Beardsley Junior high school, said the schools can and must aid in crime prevention.

Dynamic Dr. D. Albert Jackson, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist church, said, "If the present administration at city hall cannot apprehend these murderers whom everybody else can see daily walking our streets, the city election is near at hand; let your ballot speak and give the city hall a clean sweep."

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

"Thou Shall Not Kill" Mass Meet In Chattanooga Attracts Throng

MAR 1 1941

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(SNS) The Mass Meeting to devise ways and means to reduce the murder rate among Negroes in Chattanooga that was held at the Monumental Baptist Church where Rev. Wm. C Upshaw is pastor. Sunday, February 23 at 2:30 p. m. attracted approximately five hundred people.

The meeting was opened with the senior and junior choirs of the church singing "You Can't Do Wrong and Get By." Rev. E. L. Hickman. pastor of Warren Chapel church delivered the invocation.

A miniature drama on "How they Kill" in which several members of the church passed in review before the audience bearing placards depicting murderous weapons such as switch-blade knives. pistols, brickbats. lye. whiskey and dice.

Hon. M. A. Fleming veteran Municipal Judge was the first speaker on the program. He said among other things that an all Negro jury to try Negro killers better housing conditions. and better education. would go a long ways toward relieving the situation. The audience applauded a statement by the Judge when he said "the city ordinance should be amended to prohibit any builder from building a house for human habitation without a bath tub and its facilities in it."

MAR 1 1941

He also praised Dr. Callier's article that appeared in the daily press as one of the best he had ever read and said that it should be made in circular form and circulated throughout Chattanooga. He further stated that "liars. scandalmongers and breeders of strife are guilty of murder."

BETTERTON SPEAKS

Mr. E. R. Betterton, Commissioner of fire and police was the second speaker on the program. He claimed that 'poverty' sub-standard houses. and poor education were contributing causes for the high murder rate among Negroes.

Further quoting Commissioner Betterton "the primary reason of the high homicide rate among colored people is poverty. housing conditions are bad, men and women living in adultry. rearing children under these conditions with no education, hence no morals. There are few major crimes committed by persons with as much as a high school education. showing that the development of the mind creates a sense of morals and of self-respect.

"There are compulsory education laws but at any time during the school session. you can observe on the streets. numerous children of school age." He further said that. "there has not been an electrocution in Chattanooga murderers for more than twenty years." He advised the audience to cooperate with the law-enforcement agencies that the murder rate may be reduced in our city.

GENERAL CHAMLEE SPEAKS

Former Atty. General G. W. Chamlee spoke at length on the murder racket in Chattanooga. He said "ther are many causes for murder, but we are looking for something to prevent murder." He advocated a "search and seizure" program as an experiment that is, after 10 or 11 at night all suspicious looking characters should be searched for long knives and pistols. "We tried it during my time as Attorney General and we got more knives and pistols than we had any earthly need for."

"I think that a plan should, and will be eventually worked out. so that colored jurors will serve on the jury in this county. I favor it."

Atty. Peabody Howard. present Attorney General of Hamilton County described the different degrees of murder. He said, " a Judge and Jury must accept the testimony of the witness to determine the case. and a jury cannot make a first degree murder case out of a man-slaughter case. If he does, the Supreme Court will reverse the decision."

MAR 1 1941

He said the Georgia laws on murder were much stricter than Tenn. that is why there aren't as many murderers in Georgia.

Dr. L. L. Patton in a very efficient manner touched on the crime wave and gave his opinion of a solution for the problem. He also advised on clean living as a part of his Health Talk.

Homicide officer Smith said "there had been approximately 800 murders in Chattanooga for the past 20 years and approximately 90 per cent of those were colored. He told the audience "If they really wanted to stop murders bring me the evidence and come into court and tell what you know and we will be going somewhere."

Solos were rendered by Misses Ida Smallwood, Emma Reynolds and Bessie Brock. Mrs. Katie E. Smith who helped to arrarge the program acted as mistress of ceremonies.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

White Citizens Resent Killing Of Restaurateur

FEB 20 1941

SPARTA, TENN., Feb.—(By Edna Germaine for ANP)—Tuesday night near 8 o'clock, Roscoe Oldham, 25, owner of the Happy Hour cafe was shot through the heart by constable "Powder" McDole in what appears to be a deliberate murder.

The constable accompanied city policeman Hamp Lowery, who had been summoned by Oldham's wife, Francola, after he had slapped her during an argument earlier in the day. Answering the call, they found the cafe closed. When the place opened for business later they stopped in.

FEB 20 1941

According to eyewitnesses, Mr. and Mrs. Oldham were in their curtained-off living quarters at the rear of the building quarreling and dividing their belongings for a separation. One of the officers is reputed to have said, "Let's just stay here until they start fighting and take them both over." The argument grew more heated. Through the half-drawn curtain Oldham could be seen trying to look in a box his wife had packed while he was waiting on a customer. She was protesting and kept trying to pull him back when he shoved her on the bed, she retaliated by slapping him. He in return did the same and bending over the box began to pull the things out saying he had a right to see whether or not she was taking any of his possessions.

SHOT THROUGH HEART

The officers rushed to the back with drawn blackjacks and hit him several blows in quick succession at the base of the skull. Oldham somehow succeeded in turning around so they shoved and pulled him out of the living quarters hitting him all the while. Meanwhile most of those present in the cafe jumped up and ran out of the door. They were near the coin phonograph at the edge of the dance floor when Oldham managed to get a hold on both blackjacks to prevent further beating.

McDole reached for his gun. Lowery, witnesses stated, said: "Don't do that Powder! Don't..." But before he could finish the sentence the constable allegedly whipped out his gun, and deliberately aiming at Oldham's heart, fired. The young man staggered to the window, sank to his knees then slumped forward on his face. Officer Lowery ordered Joe Tom Richmond, patron, who had remained in the cafe, to go for the ambulance. The others who had remained were told to get out.

WHITES RESENT SHOOTING

When the chief of police, Charlie Sailors, arrived on the scene in raising him up to see where he was shot discovered that he was still breathing.

Oldham was not a native of Sparta. He came here more than two years ago with his employers, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mitchell. When he opened the Happy Hour cafe in the Masonic building, it soon became the pleasure haunt of everyone in town. He kept his job with the Mitchell family. They were very fond of him and backed him in anything he undertook in the business field. He had planned to buy and build a large cafe with a grocery store in the front and a real dance hall in the rear. He had as many white friends as Negro, white citizens of note who have openly expressed their feelings toward his untimely death.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Young Cafe Owner Slain By Constable In Own Place; 'An Outrage' Say Both Races

Is Beaten With Black Jacks By Two Officers Before Shooting

FEB 2 2 1941

Does Not Arrest Him

SPARTA, Tenn. — (By Edna Germaine for ANP) — Tuesday night, near 8 o'clock, Roscoe Oldham, 25, owner of the Happy Hour cafe and undoubtedly the town's most ambitious and energetic young business man, was shot through the heart by Constable "Powder" McDole in what appears to be a deliberate murder.

The constable was accompanied by City Policeman Hamp Lowery, who had been summoned by Oldham's wife, Francola, after he had slapped her during an argument earlier in the day. Answering the call (no warrant had been issued) they found the cafe closed. When the place opened for business later they stopped in.

According to eyewitnesses, Mr. and Mrs. Oldham were in their curtained-off living quarters at the rear of the building quarreling and dividing their belongings for a separation. One of the officers is reputed to have said, "Let's just stay here until they start fighting and then take them both over." The argument grew more heated. Through the half drawn curtain Oldham could be seen trying to look in a box his wife had packed while he was waiting on a customer. She was protesting and kept trying to pull him back when he shoved her on the bed. She retaliated by slapping him. He in return did the same and bending over the box began to pull the things out saying he had a right to see whether or not she was taking any of his possessions.

The officers rushed to the back with drawn blackjacks and hit him several blows in quick succession at the base of the skull. Oldham somehow succeeded in turning around so they shoved and pulled him out of the living quarters, hitting him all the while. Meanwhile most of those present in the cafe jumped up and ran out of the door. They were near the coin phonograph at the edge of the dance floor when Oldham managed to get a hold on both blackjacks to prevent further beating.

FEB 2 2 1941

McDole reached for his gun. Lowery, witnesses stated, said: 'Don't do that Powder! Don't—" But before he could finish the sentence the constable allegedly whipped out his gun and, deliberately aiming at Oldham's heart, fired. The young man staggered to the window, sank to his knees, then slumper forward on his face. Officer Lowery ordered Joe Tom Richmond, patron, who had remained in the cafe, to go for the ambulance. The others who had remained were told to get out.

When the chief of police, Charlie Sailors, arrived on the scene in raising him up to see where he was shot, discovered that he was still breathing.

Oldham was not a native of Sparta. He came here more than two years ago with his employers, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mitchell. When he opened the Happy Hour cafe in the Masonic building, it soon became the pleasure haunt of everyone in town. He kept his job with the Mitchell family. They were very fond of him and backed him in anything he undertook in the business field. He had planned to buy and build a large cafe with a grocery store in the front and a real dance hall in the rear. He had as many white friends as Negro, white citizens of note who have openly expressed their feelings toward his untimely death.

FEB 2 2 1941

According to a discussion with Oldham the Sunday before his death, he was informed that the law had been turning customers back and peeping through small holes in the front door (supposedly to catch a gambling game in the rear) and had it in for him because he was doing so well. As a result, he had told his wife not to have anyone else arrested who happened to get a little unruly in the cafe. He felt that he was capable of keeping order in his place. The officers claim they had been told by some of their "stools" the murdered man was selling whiskey, however, they had not been able to catch any illegal acts going on around his business. It is believed they felt that they were being "outsmarted" by Oldham and resented it so much so that when his wife called them she unthinkingly gave them the opportunity to "show him." Eyewitnesses further contend they never once said "you are under arrest" or any other terms used in placing a man under arrest.

Citizens between the ages of 50 and 80 cannot remember a Negro having been killed by police officers in Sparta before and a very few have been beaten until this particular group was elected and hired. It has been a sort of minor "reign of terror" for Negroes since they have been in office.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

"AN OUTRAGE," SAY SPARTA CITIZENS

FEB 2 2 1941

SPARTA, Tenn., Feb. 20—(By Edna Germaine for ANP) —Tuesday night, Roscoe Oldham, 25, owner of the Happy Hour cafe and undoubtedly the town's most ambitious and energetic young business man, was shot through the heart by Corstable "Powder" McDole in what appears to be a deliberate murder.

The constable accompanied City Policeman Hamp Lowery, who had been summoned by Oldham's wife, Francola, after he had slapped her during an argument earlier in the day. Answering the call (no warrant had been issued) they found the cafe closed. When the place opened for business later they stopped in.

FEB 2 2 1941

According to eyewitnesses, Mr. and Mrs. Oldham were in their curtained-off living quarters at the rear of the building quarrelling and dividing their belongings for separation. One of the officers is reputed to have said, "Let's just stay here until they start fighting and take them both over." The argument grew more heated.

The officers rushed to the back with drawn blackjacks and hit him several blows in quick succession at the base of the skull, Oldham somehow succeeded in turning around so they shoved and pulled him out of the living quarters hitting him all the while.

McDole reached for his gun. Lowery, witnesses stated, said: "Don't do that Powder! Don't. . . But before he could finish the sentence the constable allegedly whipped out his gun and, deliberately aiming at Oldham's heart, fired. The young man staggered to the window, sank to his knees then slumped forward on his face. Oficer Lowery ordered Joe Tom Richmond, patron who had remained in the cafe, to go for the ambulance.

went on trial in Judge L. D. Miller's division of criminal court for the slaying of 20-year-old James Kempson, colored, at his roadhouse on March 7.

Pickens took the witness stand in his own defense late yesterday afternoon and charged that Kempson was armed with a knife and was advancing on him when he shot him through the heart. The defense did not complete its case and the trial is to be resumed today.

State witnesses accused Pickens of shooting Kempson deliberately in a quarrel over Kempson's 17-year-old brother, Frank. According to state witnesses, Pickens assaulted Frank Kempson with an axe about a week before the killing occurred.

On the night of the killing the Kempson brothers went to the roadhouse, and according to state witnesses, Frank threw a dime on the counter in payment of a debt. The dime rolled off the counter and Pickens and Kempson engaged in an argument during which Pickens cursed and abused the younger boy. The state contended that James Kempson joined in the argument, warned Pickens against cursing his brother and Pickens then shot him from a distance of about twelve or fifteen feet. State witnesses denied that James was armed although defense attorneys had a long knife which they exhibited at the trial and charged that this knife was taken from Kempson.

Attorney Ben Cash aided Assistant Attorney-General Burrell Barker in the prosecution while Attorneys Tom Davis and G. W. Chamlee represented Pickens.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 30, 1941

KILLED IN DEFENSE, DEFENDANT STATES

Negro Roadhouse Owner Says He Shot James Kempson in Self-Protection

Elisha Pickens, colored owner of a Negro roadhouse near Summitt, pleaded self defense yesterday as he

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Homicides Arouse Knoxville Leaders

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — (A. N. P.) —A mammoth mass meeting held Sunday at Vine Avenue Christian Church had for its theme, "What Knoxville Negroes Can do About Crime Among Negroes." The meeting was sponsored by the local branch of the NAACP following 11 homicides in this mountain city within recent weeks all of which involved Negroes.

Rev. B. B. Evans, president of the branch, in a very forceful manner charged lax law enforcement as the greatest contributing factor. Principal M. D. Senter of the Beardsley Jr. High school said the schools can and must aid in crime prevention. Dynamic Dr. D. Albert Jackson, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist church, said, "If the present administration at city hall cannot apprehend these murderers whom everybody else can see daily walking our streets, the city election is near at hand let your ballot speak and give city hall a clean sweep."

Dr. Jackson started the ball rolling a few days ago by publishing a burning article in the daily press in which the law enforcement agencies were severely arraigned. He charged that the numbers racket, bootleg and joints and prostitution have all come out into the open. This effort was followed by a sermon on crime at Mt. Zion in which neither men or words were spared. As it has been just about two weeks since there was a murder, it would seem that the criminal element has again gone to cover.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

GERBER TURNS ATTACK ON NEGRO'S ATTORNEY

But Is Unable To Prove McTighe Solicited Case—Ware Sticks To Story

Tenacious and prolonged cross-examinations of John Ware, negro, and his mother, Willie Ware, by Atty. Gen. Gerber and an unsuccessful effort by him to show that Atty. W. F. McTighe Jr. had himself sought to represent the negro enlivened yesterday's sessions of the E. E. Ashcraft-Ware murder trial in First Criminal Court.

Atty. Gen. Gerber concentrated his questioning of Ware and the negro's buxom mother on their memories which were keen and unclouded enough to recall Ware's actions and what he ate the morning of the murder of Mrs. Ashcraft on June 5, but were blank on the same subjects at any other times.

Property Mortgaged

Mr. McTighe showed through the mother's testimony that she personally came to his office and solicited his representation of her son and executed a mortgage on her daughter's property for $350 to Mr. McTighe as his fee. The mother disproved through her testimony that Mr. McTighe made a speech before a negro church congregation to raise the necessary fee money, a fact that the state strove to prove. The mother testified that Norman Moore, a member of the public defender staff, advised her to take the case away from Mr. McTighe and that an attorney would be provided through his office without cost to Ware.

It was considered probable that the case would go to the jury tonight. Mr. McTighe said he had about three more witnesses and both state and defense attorneys for the codefendents, Ashcraft and Ware, will introduce rebuttal witnesses. It is possible the arguments may start before noon adjournment or at convening of court this afternoon, and would end at a night session of court.

Ware Sticks To Story

The defendant Ware, under cross-examination, stuck to his testimony of Monday that he had made no confession but had answered all questions with a "yes" to avoid physical abuse. Mr. Gerber in pointed questions sought from Ware admission that he had been coached by Mr. McTighe in his answers but Ware was adamant that he was only telling the truth.

Ware's mother, who described her family as husband and 11 "head" of children, corroborated the son's timony that he returned ill to home from work the afternoon fore the murder and slept there night, refused to tell Mr. Gerber hat she had paid Mr. McTighe d what legal business he had dertaken for her before the trial. was upheld in her refusal by dge Phil Wallace. The facts re brought out by Sam Rhem, orney for Ashcraft, and Mr. Mc-he in re-direct examination.

long list of witnesses, white and negro, testified for Ashcraft that he and his wife had been a happily married couple, that Ashcraft had been deeply grieved by his wife's death, that no unusual noise or screams were heard near the Ashcraft home the night of the murder and that Ashcraft had shown no signs of nervousness the morning or afternoon after the murder.

Reiterates Denial

Ware testified he had been knocked down when arrested at his home by deputies, again while being questioned in the jail and that deputies had threatened to give him to a mob if he refused to make a statement. He reiterated his denial in full of having voluntarily given a confession.

The witnesses, besides Ware and his mother, who took the stand and their testimony were:

A. D. Turnstill, J. R. Majors, and R. O. Burch, all inspectors of the United States Engineers: That Ware showed no signs of nervousness operating the clam shell on the morning after the murder.

Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Walker, 3516 Stanton, next door neighbors of the Ashcrafts: That she heard no disturbance at the Ashcraft's the morning of the murder, and that they were a normal married couple. Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Gill, Raleigh Road and Walleker: That they saw the abandoned car, and Mr. Gill that he notified the sheriff's office of the finding of Mrs. Ashcraft's body.

Happy In Marriage

Mrs. Grover Gambreal, who lives across from the Ashcraft home: That the couple were happy in marriage, and Ashcraft was shocked and grieved by the news of the murder. Guthrie Watson, negro: Of seeing the abandoned car and informing the sheriff's office.

A. O. Kerr, Jack E. Green and Charles Barnett, all employes of the Tennessee Powder Co.: That they left the powder plant from work in Barnett's car about midnight and passed the scene of the abandoned car around 12:30 p.m. They testified seeing a woman standing near the Raleigh Bridge and several others standing at the car, one of them being a negro.

L. M. Burch, Raleigh Road and Walleker: that he saw the abandoned car about 5 a.m. the morning of the murder and he had heard no unusual noises during the night. Mrs. W. N. Lyerly, a friend of the Ashcrafts: that they seemed happy and that Ashcraft was "calm, worried and grieved after the murder." Mrs. Frank Rommell of Portland, Ark.: of her close acquaintance with the Ashcrafts, and that Mrs. Ashcraft often forgot to wear her wrist watch. She said Mrs. Ashcraft carried as much as $200 in a pouch attached to her slip, and that the pouch fastenings were such as not to leave any marks on the garment.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wasson, 875 Jackson, from whom the Ashcrafts rented an apartment in 1936: of their contented married life. Mrs. C. E. Stainbrook, 1009 Jackson: that the Ashcrafts often went with her to watch her son, Donald (Flash) Stainbrook, pitch in softball games.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

ASHCRAFT AND WARE GET 50-YEAR TERMS FOR RALEIGH MURDER

Verdicts Of Guilty With Mitigating Circumstances Are Returned By Jury

NEW TRIAL IS ASKED

Judge Will Hear Defense Motion On Dec. 4

TENSE MOMENT IN COURT

Husband Of Slain Woman Shows No Emoton But Negro Voices Joy—Sentences Mean 26-Year Minimum

(Pictures On Page 16)

By BOB MARKS

Verdicts of not more than 50 years each, which mean serving longer penitentiary terms before eligible for parole than if given life, were meted out yesterday morning by a First Criminal Court jury to Edward E. (Johnny) Ashcraft, 44, and John (Tom) Ware, 20, negro, for the murder of Mrs. Zelma Ida Ashcraft.

The verdicts of guilty of first degree murder for Ware, and of accessory before the fact to first degree murder for Ashcraft with mitigating circumstances for both was returned after the jury had deliberated for six hours and 52 minutes. Receiving the case at 8:48 p.m. Wednesday, the jury retired for the night at 1 a.m. yesterday, and exactly at 10:35 a.m. entered the courtroom to render their verdict.

Means 26-Year Minimum

Under a life sentence, defendants are eligible for parole in about 13 years. Under a 50-year sentence, prisoners are not eligible for parole before serving 26 years.

An unstudied dramatic moment was provided by Judge Phil Wallace as he read the vedict. Handed the indictments by L. G. Oswalt, jury foreman, Judge Wallace began reading aloud the verdicts written in pencil on the indictment jackets:

"We, the jury, find the defendant Ware guilty of murder in the first degree as found in the indictment—"

Courtroom Is Tense

He suddenly stopped reading, and leaning forward in his chair asked court attaches standing near his bench, "Can one of you lend me some glasses? I thought I could read this without them. But I guess I can't."

His normally low-pitched voice sounded as booming as a drum in the death-silent courtroom. State and defense attorney and Ashcraft tensed in their chairs, waiting for the judge to resume readying. They strained forward to hear if the following phrase would be "with mitigating circumstances" or "and fix his punishment." The former would mean the defendants were saved from the electric chair, the latter that they were doomed to death.

Then Judge Wallace, completely innocent of the situation created for the few seconds, leaned back in his chair and continued: "with mitigating circumstances and fix his sentence at not more than 50 years in the state penitentiary." He picked up the Ashcraft indictment jacket, and read the similar findings.

Ashcraft Relaxes

Ashcraft showed no emotion, merely relaxing in his chair. Ware sat stolidly disinterested looking toward Judge Wallace, his attitude evidencing the full import of the sentence had not yet penetrated his mind. William F. McTighe Jr., his

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

CONFESSIONS DENIED IN ASHCRAFT SLAYING

Husband Of Murdered Woman, Negro Acouse Officers Of Forcing Admissions

NOV 1 1941

Bespectacled E. E. Ashcraft and a "burr-headed" negro, John Ware, took the witness stand in First Criminal Court yesterday to deny any knowledge of the slough slaying last June 5 of Ashcraft's wife and to claim that alleged confessions previously introduced by the state were false and obtained through duress and abuse.

Ashcraft, speaking distinctly and seemingly calm even through a grueling two-hour cross-examination by Atty. Gen. Will Gerber, was on the stand until 4:10 o'clock yesterday afternoon. At 4:20 o'clock, Ware took the stand and finished his direct examination under his attorney, William McTighe, at 5:40 o'clock. His cross-examination will begin when court resumes this morning.

Accuse Investigators

Both men claimed that investigators cursed them. Ware said he was struck several times and once had a pistol "poked" into his mouth. Ashcraft said officers refused him food and water, kept a bright light shining in his face and harassed him with a picture of his wife's body.

Worst blow dealt the defense during the day came when Atty. Gen. Gerber questioned Ashcraft about a divorce he obtained from his second wife, Celene Ashcraft, and produced copies of court records from Helena, Ark., to show that Ashcraft had two bills filed and named different grounds in each bill and set up different dates.

NOV 14 1941

One bill showed the couple to have been married in Gulfport, Miss., the other in Phillips County, Ark. On the latter bill, Ashcraft denied that his signature was the one shown. The bill also said that she deserted him in 1926. Ashcraft had testified it was in 1927.

Affidavit Produced

Atty. Gen. Gerber also charged that Ashcraft and the murdered woman were not legally married after Ashcraft had testified they were married in Pine Bluff, Ark., by a justice of the peace. Mr. Gerber produced an affidavit from Jefferson County, Ark., authorities to show that no marriage license in the name of Ashcraft had been issued there since 1926.

Ware slouched low in the witness chair as he testified. His use of words and his expressions frequently brought bursts of laughter from the spectators.

He claimed he had ridden with Ashcraft only two or three times and had not seen him for a month or more before the crime was committed. The night of the crime, he testified, he was sick in bed at his mother's home.

Writes Own Name

He said he was hit in the head by an officer the night of his arrest, was slapped and cursed on other occasions. He denied categorically the confession attributed to him and which officers said he had made his mark on when he told them he couldn't write. He demonstrated with pencil and paper that he could write his own name.

"Those white men just asked me those questions and I said 'yas, sir,' because I was scared they'd kill me,' he testified. "I wasn't going to dispute those white folks word."

"I don't know anything about it in any shape, form or fashion," Ware declared. "I am an innocent boy. I don't know nothing except what they made me told them here in the county jail."

NOV 1 1941

Ashcraft told, under questioning by Sam D. Rhem Jr., his attorney, of being informed of his wife's death by Deputy Giles Metteer, and of talking to him and Deputies George Becker and W. H. Key.

He had met Ware when both worked on a Korsmo Construction Company job on Cleveland about April 20, 1941, and he had ridden the negro home or to work only three or four times, he said. He never saw Ware again until he was taken to the negro's house after being questioned for his wife's murder, he said.

Said Each Had $200

When his wife started on her trip, Ashcraft said, he had about $200 in his billfold, and his wife had about the same amount in her pocketbook which was money they were saving to buy a car. In addition, each had about $50 to $60 more. His wife took her money along on the trip to her mother's at Adolphus, Ky., Ashcraft said. They had entertained at their home a niece and several of her friends, all student nurses at the Methodist Hospital, until about 10 o'clock the night before the murder.

Ashcraft said the last time he saw his wife was when she waved goodby to him as she backed their car out of the driveway of their home at 3520 Stanton, as she left on her trip about 3 o'clock the morning of June 5. A box of Amytal tablets were identified by Ashcraft as bought by his wife prior to the trip. His wife was accustomed to taking this type of tablets for her nervousness, he said.

Their pet dog would bark and attempt to bite any strangers who came to the house, Ashcraft said. When Mr. Rhem switched the questioning to the $200 his wife was supposed to have pinned to her clothing, Ashcraft explained the pouch she carried it in was equipped with a homemade fastener that would have left no marks on her undergarments.

Tells of Weapons

Ashcraft said in his home was a pistol, a .410 gage shotgun, and butcher and paring knives in the kitchen and some heavy tools. He could easily have given any of these to anyone who might have been waiting outside the house the morning of his wife's departure, he said.

News of his wife's death was a terrible shock to him, Ashcraft said. He told of going to the funeral home to see her body, of the unsuccessful search of her clothing for her money and diamond ring, and of accompanying the deputies to the County Jail. Deputy Key came to his house Saturday afternoon, June 14, to take him to jail where he was questioned until the following Monday morning, Ashcraft said.

"Well, what in hell did you want to commit this murder for?" were the first words with which Deputy Becker greeted him, Ashcraft related. Ashcraft said he denied the murder and maintained his innocence throughout the questioning. Bob Ezell, investigator for the attorney general's office, told him he was on the job and asked him to plead guilty "and help me out," Ashcraft said.

Describes Questioning

Ezell refused him use of the telephone during four hours of questioning. Asst. Atty. Gen. Battle came in later and read passages from the Bible to him and offered him a drink of whisky, according to Ashcraft, but refused him a drink of water. He said he was allowed no sleep from Saturday until Monday night.

Ashcraft said he sent for Ezell later because Deputy Key had been cursing and abusing him, that Deputy Key had thrust the picture of his dead wife's lacerated head at him and asked, "Aren't you ashamed you did that, you —— — — ——?" He said he would "knock my .... head off" and asked if that picture didn't haunt me?

Deputy Key knocked a cigaret out of his mouth to prevent his smoking and stood nearby sipping water when he asked for a drink, Ashcraft said. Later Deputy Becker threatened he would be kept there until he made a statement, and that he would be handcuffed to a table leg and beaten with a rubber hose until he confessed, Ashcraft said.

Ashcraft said he was never left alone with Dr. J. A. McQuiston, who examined him, nor with Everett Pidgeon or Nelson Castle, who were present when his alleged confession was read aloud by Henry Waldauer, court reporter. He would have informed them of his treatment had he been given a chance, he testified. Ashcraft said he made no statement to Mr. Waldauer, that when a question was asked he would not answer but Mr. Waldauer went on writing nevertheless. The deputies and Mr. Battle were whispering and passing notes during the writing, he testified. When they asked him to sign the statement, he refused until he had talked with his lawyer, Ashcraft said.

Ware "Feels Fine"

Newspaper men asked Ware how he felt about the verdict.

His white teeth flashed inside a broad grin, childish delight spread over his face.

"I feels fine, boss," he said.

"You feel fine, Tom, with 50 years in the pen ahead of you?" asked the reporter.

"Yas, suh. It's better n' takin' my life. I sho feel fine. My life ain't taken from me. I's happy as a lark. Lawyer McTighe done real fine for me. I'se happy. I'se innocent, too, boss."

NOV 14 1941

"Innocent," Ashcraft Says

Ashcraft said: "I'm innocent still, just as I have always been. I expected a verdict of not guilty. Mr. Rhem and Mr. Norcross (Raymond) fought a splendid battle."

Attorneys for both defendants said the case would be carried to the highest court.

Mr. Rhem announced after the trial that H. L. Norcross would not be associated with him in future legal steps connected with the trial.

"We had a high class, intelligent jury," Attorney General Gerber, who was aided by his assistant, Sam Pharr, said.

"The defense sought to make it appear that the confessions were obtained by force and violence with the use of the age-old manufactured story of the rubber hose. The jury has returned a good verdict. They have upheld the testimony of Dr. J. A. McQuiston, Nelson Castle, Everett Pidgeon, and the court reporter, Henry Waldauer, none of whom were connected with any law enforcement agencies and who were disinterested witnesses. They have upheld and justified the efficient manner in which the sheriff's office conducted this investigation."

NOV 14 1941

Hired Murder Charged

The state charged Ashcraft hired Ware to kill his wife, and the conspiracy was executed on the early morning of June 5. The state's theory was that Ashcraft dropped several tablets of Amytal, a hypnotic or sedative, into the coffee and grape juice of Mrs. Ashcraft which she drank prior to leaving in her auto for Kentucky. In her stupor, she was placed in the auto and taken to a slough near the Raleigh Road Viaduct. There she was thrown into the water to drown but the shock of the cold water revived her. The defendants then murdered her with blows on her head with rocks.

When the jury began to deliberate its verdict Wednesday night, each juror gave his opinion of the case in a short talk, it is understood. Then a poll was taken as to guilt or innocence, the count showing a unanimous opinion of guilty of murder. A poll on the sentence was withheld until yesterday morning.

NOV 14 1941

Several Favored Death

The first poll then showed several for death, others for varying sentences with mitigating circumstances ranging from 50 to 20 years. After discussion the final poll brought the 50-year sentences.

Members of the jury were:

Bryson B. Hamilton, 2095 Poplar, Southern Petroleum Co.

H. Leo Brown, 1417 Court, North Memphis Savings Bank Branch.

Thomas K. Creson, 1747 Eastmoreland, manager, Dictaphone Corporation.

Birger L. Johnson, 2815 Lombardy, president, Memphis Natural Gas Co.

Calvin P. Land, 683 Hudson, assistant treasurer, Memphis Natural Gas Co.

Amos C. Rogers, 1287 Agnes, levee contractor.

Henry L. Banister, 463 North McNeil, unemployed former employe Colonial Baking Co.

Lennox C. Swett, 3312 Spottswood, night wire chief, Western Union Telegraph Co.

L. G. Oswalt, 351 South Reese, cashier, Ford Motor Co.

R. M. Pannill, 726 North Willett, clerk, Union Compress & Warehouse Co.

William I. Boren, 250 South Watkins, bookkeeper, Orgill Bros. Co.

Joseph D. Hardesty, 1072 North Maury, clerk, Riechman-Crosby Co.

33-1941

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga, Tenn. Daily Times
February 21, 1941

Homicides Among Negroes

To The Editor of The Chattanooga Times:

The homicides in Chattanooga have been discussed and deplored by both whites and Negroes in this city. Attempts have been made to ascertain the causes, and methods have been used to prevent them. It is a reproach upon our fair city for this crime wave to continue at the rate it has traveled for years. Everybody has been conjecturing as to the causes of crime among Negroes, and I think I may as well give my reason, because we all have been talking about it and doing nothing to stop it. Crime waves must be treated as diseases and their epidemics. The causes must first be sought and, if possible, found and removed before there is a chance for a cure.

Before giving my opinion as to the causes of this crime and methods to stop it, I will say that Chattanooga is vulnerable to crime on account of its geographical relations to the states of Alabama and Georgia. This relationship makes Chattanooga a dumping ground for fugitives from justice from these states. Next, Chattanooga is an industrial city and the people of this city have taken on the nature of their environment. They are, for the most part, industrially and factory-minded instead of academic and social-minded. Those are some of the things that are responsible for our crime here over which we have no control.

But here are five causes over which we do have control. First, the leading Negroes of this city are responsible for some of the crimes themselves, for failing to do their part through their clubs and organizations in attempting to reach and teach the Negroes in the lower stratum of society the great value of human life and respect for human rights. By virtue of Chattanooga not having a higher institution of learning of Negroes, the Negroes here are not as social-minded as they might be toward the Negroes in the lower stratum of life. Too, many of them are not native-born Chattanoogans, or native-born Tennesseans, and are lacking in city pride. Second: Syphilis is another cause of this great crime here among Negroes, and I think that Doctor Brown, in his attack on the conditions of Chattanooga regarding the venereal diseases of Chattanooga, was not much overdrawn. Many of the doctors of this city are largely responsible for the existence of this disease, because there are thousands of people who have been treated by the doctors of Chattanooga who are walking the streets and are a source of contagion and infection, and no reports are made of them.

Third: The pawn shops are another cause of this crime wave. Many of them make almost a specialty of selling pistols, razors and long-bladed knives to Negroes. Fourth: It is sad to say, but it has been said, that some of the officers of the law have encouraged Negroes to kill others. Fifth: The laxity of the courts is another cause of crime in this city.

Some lawyers have almost made a specialty of handling murder cases for Negroes, and they are very successful in their methods and manner of handling them. Many of them use this method—when the case is called, he is either sick, or his client, is sick or his client's witnesses are sick, and the case is passed. At that time, the courtroom is filled with curiosity-seekers, both for the plaintiff and the defendant; and the next time, when the case is called, it is, as a rule, passed for some other reason, with only a few spectators present, and finally, when it is tried, the jurors on the case find such few Negroes and spectators present in the interest of the deceased Negro, or defendant, that they usually give judgment in favor of the plaintiff, or murderer.

The best-thinking Negroes in this city are greatly opposed to Negroes killing each other as white people are to whites killing each other. For the most part, I lay the major causes of crime among Negroes in the city of Chattanooga at the door-steps of the white people rather than Negroes, for failing to allow Negroes to participate in the administrative affairs in the city of Chattanooga, relative to Negroes. I have tried to state the causes of the crime among Negroes in the city as I see them.

Now, this is the remedy that I have to offer for this great scourge. The first is for the white people of this city to allow Negroes to participate in the administrative affairs, relative to Negroes. This can be done in many ways. First, by allowing Negroes to serve as officers of the law in those parts of the city that are densely populated with Negroes. Second, to have Negro detectives, with the power to go in places wherever needed to ascertain all available facts about crime, whatever the nature may be. Negroes are rather apprehensive about white people coming into their neighborhoods seeking information relative to other Negroes. I have heard many white officers of the law complain because they were called to localities where Negroes had been murdered and could not get information, even from the Negroes that called them, nor anyone who may have committed the murder or anyone else who knew anything about it.

Another remedy for this crime is to allow Negroes to serve on the jury in cases where Negroes are involved. Those are the major remedies that I have to offer for crime among Negroes here. Here are some I would like to add. Since diseases have played a great part in the causes of crime among Negroes, this condition could be remedied by letting Negroes treat each other and nurse each other, both in the city and county of which we are a part. Negro social workers could do much to help locate the places among other Negroes that breed diseases and, ultimately, crime. I am not trying to dictate to the city officials as to how Chattanooga should be run or operated, neither am I proposing to take from the white people of this city, county, and commonwealth the high official positions that they have rightfully earned, but I do beg and entreat them to let us participate in the affairs of the city and county that will help make Chattanooga a better city in which to live. Let us help you clean your city by your helping us help you, even to the garbage, which we have been denied the privilege of cleaning up. Do not deny us of all of these things and criticize us for not doing better, because with all your advantages, you are not immune to the things of which we are victims. Do not tell us how bad we are by telling us how good you are. Do not tell us how much you are giving us in Chattanooga by telling us how little Negroes are getting in other cities.

Just as you strive to make Chattanooga outstanding in many creditable ways, let me beg you to make it just as outstanding by giving to the Negroes of Chattanooga those things to which they are justly entitled. Then when we speak of democracy of the people, for the people, and by the people, it will apply to Negroes as well as to white people. During these days of stress and strain, when democracy is on trial throughout the universe, and where the purity of it is being analyzed by even the democracies themselves, and where billions of dollars are spent for the protection and preservation of democracy, let us have in Chattanooga a true democracy that will be in deeds and not in words, of the people, for the people, and by the people.

You have allowed the opportunity that I am asking for to other nationalities and, if given to us, there will be no need of fear in your city of saboteurs, fifth columnists or strikers against any form of our government. Then Chattanooga will be an ideal and safe place in which for mankind to live.

DR. N. B. COLLIER.

2312½ South Broad St.,
Chattanooga.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

BUS DRIVER CLEARED IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

APR 26 1941

Holder Must Face Charge Of Carrying Pistol

Clinton Holder, 28, street railway bus operator, was cleared by the Shelby County Grand Jury yesterday of a first degree murder charge resulting from the fatal shooting of a negro passenger last week.

Mr. Holder was indicted on a charge of carrying a pistol, however, and is at liberty on a $500 bond. He leaves at 1937 Young.

The shooting took place the night of April 15 on Mr. Holder's Memphis Street Railway coach when the victim, David Love, 38, of 261-I Pauline Circle, attacked him with an umbrella. During the altercation Love was shot twice. He died four days later. APR 26 1941

According to City Court testimony Wednesday, the operator refused to accept a transfer from a negro woman and Love began an argument which was climaxed by the attack with the umbrella.

J. B. Bryan, 51, of 1483½ Tutwiler, was indicted on a charge of assault to murder, brought against him following a street brawl in the 1000 block on Monroe in which R. L. Hamilton, 1196 Central, suffered minor knife wounds.

Other indictments yesterday included: APR 26 1941

For carying a pistol—Walter McMaster.

For larceny and receiving stolen property—L. J. Jones, Joe Mason, Charlie Jackson and Eddie Howard.

For burglary—Clinton Jones.

A not true bill was returned in the case of John Barnes, charged with larceny and receiving stolen property.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
July 23, 1941

Negro In Sing Sing Confesses 'Clueless' Nashville Murder

NEW YORK, July 22 (AP)—For four years Nashville, Tenn., authorities have sought the slayer of Felix G. Presson, a special railroad officer who was shot when he tried to oust two Negroes from a freight yard.

The murderer, Nashville police said, left no clues.

Today the District Attorney's office in Manhattan reported that Charles Ware, 27, a Negro now serving a seven to 10-year term in Sing Sing prison for carrying concealed weapons, confessed to the crime.

Last Wednesday, Assistant District Attorney Harold X. McGowan questioned a defendant charged in felony court with robbery. The prisoner confided he knew a man at Sing Sing who had murdered Presson. He named Ware.

The District Attorney's office quoted Ware as saying he killed Presson after the latter fired shots at him and a companion as they tried to board a freight train leaving Nashville. Ware said one of Presson's bullets struck his hand and that he whipped out his pistol and returned the fire.

Nashville police were expected to apply for a Governor's warrant to return Ware to Tennessee.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Free Press
April 15, 1941

Nobody Cared—

It is not our purpose to try the Cathey murder case in advance or to try to convict the accused Negro in this newspaper; but in case the police deductions are true, or even if they are not true, there is a lesson in the case which Chattanooga needs to learn.

The Negro who is accused of the brutal murder has killed two members of his own race previously and attempted to kill another one. He was acquitted by a jury in his first killing. Some years later, he murdered his wife and was sentenced to 30 years, but was pardoned after serving 12 years. A short time ago, the lust of blood that apparently has been in him all these years asserted itself again and he tried to kill another colored woman, but failed, and was given a light term for assault.

During all this homicidal career, the white people of the city shrugged their shoulders and were not interested. Nobody white, perhaps few colored, cared about one more member of the colored race being killed.

Now that the murderous instinct apparently has vented itself upon a white woman, there is, and should be intense indignation; but what of those that have gone before? Had he been adequately punished for his former crimes, had the dangerous spirit within him been recognized, the good woman whom he is accused of killing might be alive today.

The lesson for Chattanooga is plain. For more than a year, the prevalence of homicides among our Negro citizens has been alarming. Religious, educational and professional leaders among the Negroes have been aroused and have made repeated appeals for co-operation and for suggestions in checking the evil. Some of them have suggested that placing Negroes on juries to try members of their own race would be helpful.

The Negro leaders have been almost unanimous in saying that sterner punishment of slayers among their race was essential if the killings are to be made less prevalent. The white juries, however, have continued to be uninterested and light sentences, occasional acquittals have been meted out.

Chattanooga inter-racial relations have been almost perfect for more than three decades. Only once in a great while is the hand of a Negro turned against a white neighbor with intent to kill. The slaying on Hixson Road — if the Negro be guilty—is a rare event here, but it serves to emphasize that interests of the races are linked together and the social-minded white citizens should be working alongside their colored neighbors with a view to eliminating by fear of punishment, by education, by religion and by all means that are effective, the homicide spirit that has been rampant for the past year.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
April 17, 1941

THE CATHEY CASE

The Attorney General's office has stated that as soon as the case can be placed on the court docket. the confessed slayer of Mrs. Robert A. Cathey will be tried, and that the State will be ready. That is reassuring. Even though the criminal record of Walter Reed, the middle-aged Negro who has confessed the crime, suggests otherwise, it is perhaps reasonable to suppose that this time he will pay a severe penalty. But it ought to be clear to the people of this community that this tragic case constitutes an indictment of the fashion in which City, County, and State have long dealt with crimes of violence, particularly those committed by Negroes.

What is to be said of law enforcement and of public opinion itself when men like Walter Reed are permitted their liberty? When a youth, Reed slew another Negro and was acquitted. About seventeen years ago he was convicted on a charge of murdering his wife and was sentenced to thirty years in prison. After serving twelve years he was released. Soon after he again had liberty of action he stabbed his common law wife. Notwithstanding the fact that he had demonstrated that he was vicious, the penalty imposed upon him for a "felonious assault" was nine months in the County Workhouse.

Now, after having murdered a woman by beating her to death with a toy baseball bat, Reed says in his confession: "I was crazy drunk and did not know what I was doing." Even though the impropriety of "trying" cases in the newspapers is well established, it is pertinent to observe that no person who is "crazy drunk"—drunk within the meaning of the legal rule which holds that a person under the influence of an intoxicant cannot be said to have committed premeditated murder—no person so drunk he did not know what he was doing could describe the crime in detail which characterized Reed's confession. But it seems clear he was excited and brutalized by whisky.

That observation is pertinent in the Cathey case because the situation in which Walter Reed finds himself has been faced, and with equanimity, by many other Negroes in this community. Many leading Negroes in this community deplore the fact that because of apathy on the part of white juries and leniency shown by "humane" public officials, the crime of murder is less frightening to knife-wielding Negroes than is a penalty for violating the liquor laws. The fact that many Negroes find it hard to earn a livelihood is no justification for the attitude that the relatively few among them who are vicious should not be held responsible for their acts.

Walter Reed seems to have supported himself after a fashion during the five years which passed between the time he was released from prison and the moment he slew his latest victim. Yet the public itself—the taxpayers and the law enforcement agencies they support—is primarily responsible for the existence of conditions out of which such crimes grow. "I went to Early Bird's place and got a drink," Reed told the police in his confession. Does the Police Department of this city know of the existence of Early Bird's place? Is it possible that the Police Department knows nothing about what Mr. Alfred Mynders describes in *The Evening Times* as "a favorite congregating point for loafers on Ninth Street, in the heart of the poison hooch belt"? The police know about that place now, and it will be interesting to observe how long it continues in operation. It is only one of many places in the "poison hooch belt." Is that "belt" out of bounds to the Police Department?

Conditions on Ninth Street are only a part of the problem. The failure of juries over a long period of years to impose the death penalty in cases in which Negroes have been the victims and the assailants has burdened the entire system of penology with the anti-social effects of an easy-going policy. State parole boards have been notoriously lenient, and Governor Prentice Cooper is the first State Executive in a number of years who has not egregiously abused the power of pardon.

Complacency on the part of public officials and an attitude of unconcern on the part of the public generally have created a breakdown in the machinery of law enforcement. As long as that breakdown is permitted to exist, tragic crimes like that in Riverview will be committed, and potential murderers will find easy inspiration for their crimes in the realization that even if murder does not pay, it is not penalized severely.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

HOMICIDES AMONG NEGROES IN CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

MAR 15 1941

The homicides in Chattanooga, have been discussed and deplored by both whites and Negroes in this city. Attempts have been made to ascertain the causes, and methods have been used to prevent them. It is a reproach upon our fair city for this crime wave to continue at the rate it has traveled for years. Everybody has been conjecturing as to the causes of crime among Negroes, and I think I may as well give my reason, because we all have been talking about it and doing nothing to stop it. Crime waves must be treated as diseases and their epidemics. The causes must first be sought and, if possible, found and removed before there is a chance for a cure.

Before giving my opinion as to the causes of this crime and methods to stop it, I will say that Chattanooga is vulnerable to crime on account of its geographical relations to the states of Alabama and Georgia. This relationship makes Chattanooga a dumping ground for fugitives from justice from these states. Next, Chattanooga is an industrial city and the people of this city have taken on the nature of their environment. They are, for the most part, industrially and social minded. Those are some of the things that are responsible for our crime here over which we have no control.

MAR 15 1941

But here are five causes over which we do have control. First the leading Negroes of this city are responsible for some of the crimes themeselves, for failing to do their part through their clubs and organizations in attempting to reach and teach the Negroes in the lower stratum of society the great value of human life and respect for human rights. By virtue of Chattanooga not having a higher institution of learning of Negroes, the Negroes here are not as social minded as they might be toward the Negroes in the lower stratum of life. Too, many of them are not native-born Chattanoogans, or native-born Tennesseans, and are lacking in city pride. Second: Syphilis is another cause of this great crime here among Negroes, and I think that Doctor Brown, in his attack on the conditions of Chattanooga regarding the venereal diseases of Chattanooga, was not much overdrawn. Many of the doctors of this city are largely responsible for the existence of this disease, because there are thousands of people who have been treated by the doctors of Chattanooga who are walking the streets and are a source of contagion and infection, and no reports are made of them.

Third: The pawn shops are another cause of this crime wave. Many of them make almost a specialty of selling pistols, razors and long-bladed knives to Negroes

Fourth: It is sad to say, but it has been said, that some of the officers of the law have encouraged Negroes to kill others. Fifth: The laxity of the courts is another cause of crime in this city.

MAR 15 1941

Some lawyers have almost made a specialty of handling murder cases for Negroes, and they are very successful in their methods and manner of handling them. Many of them use this method—when the case is called, he is either sick, or his client, is sick or his client's witnesses are sick, and the case is passed. At that time, the courtroom is filled with curiosity-seekers, both for the plaintiff and the defendant; and the next time, when the case is called, it is, as a rule, passed for some other reason, with only a few spectators present, and finally, when it is tried, the jurors on the case find such few Negroes and spectators present in the interest of the deceased Negro, or defendant, that they usually give judgment in favor of the plaintiff, or murderer.

The best-thinking Negroes in this city are greatly opposed to Negroes killing each other as white people are to whites killing each other. For the most part, I lay the major causes of crime among Negroes in the city of Chattanooga at the door steps of the white people rather than Negroes, for failing to allow Negroes to participate in the administrative affairs in the city of Chattanooga, relaitve to Negroes. I have tried to state the causes of the crime among Negroes in the city as I see them.

Now, this is the remedy that I have to offer for this great scourge. The first is for the white people of this city to allow Negroes to participate in the administrative affairs, relative to Negroes. This can be done in many ways. First, by allowing Negroes to serve as officers of the law in those parts of the city that are densely populated with Negroes. Second, to have Negro detectives with the power to go in places wherever needed to ascertain all available facts about crime, whatever the nature may be. Negroes are rather apprehensive about white people coming into their neighborhoods seeking information relaitve to other Negroes. I have heard many white officers of the law complain because they were called to localities where Negroes had been murdered and could not get information, even from the Negroes that called them, nor anyone who may have committed the murder or anyone else who knew anything about

MAR 15 1941

Another remedy for this crime is to allow Negroes to serve on the jury in cases where Negroes are involved. Those are the major remedies that I have to offer for crime among Negroes here. Here are some I would like to add. Since disease have played a great part in the causes of crime among Negroes this condition could be remedied by letting Negroes treat each other and nurse each other, both in the city and county of which we are a part. Negro social workers could do much to help locate the places among other Negroes that breed diseases and ultimately crime. I am not trying to dictate to the city officials should be run or poerated, neither am I proposing to take from the white people of this city, county, and commonwealth the high official positions that they have rightfully earned, but I do beg and entreat them to let us participate in the affairs of the city and county that will help make Chattanooga a better city in which to live. Let us help you clean your city by your helping us help you, even to the garbage, which we have been denied the privileges of cleannig up. Do not deny us of all of these things and with all of your advantages, you are not immune to the things of which we are victims. Do not tell us how bad we are by telling us how much you are giving us in Chattanooga by telling us how little Negroes are getting in other cities.

Just as you strive to make Chattanooga oustanding in many creditable ways, let me beg you to make it just as outstanding by giving to the Negroes of Chattanooga those things to which they are justly entitled. Then when we speak of democracy of the people, for the people, and by the people, it will apply to Negroes as well as to white people. During these days of stress and strain, when democracy is on trial throughout the universe, and where the purity of it is being analyzed by even the democracies themselves, and where billions of dollars are spent for the protection and preservation of democracy, let us have in Chattanooga a true democracy that will be in deeds and not in words, of the people, for the people, and by the people.

MAR 15 1941

You have allowed the opportunity that I am asking for to other nationalities and, if given to us, there will be no need of fear in your city of saboteurs fifth columnists or strikers against any form of our government. Then Chattanooga will be an ideal and safe place in which for mankind to live.

Dr. N. B. Collier.

Globe and
Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

YOUNG CAFE OWNER SLAIN BY OFFICER IN SPARTA, TENN.

FEB 21 1941

Murder at Hands of 'Law' Takes Place in Man's Own Home.

SPARTA, Tenn., Feb. 20.—(By Edna Germaine for ANP)—Tuesday night near 8 o'clock, Roscoe Oldham, 25, owner of the Happy Hour cafe and undoubtedly the town's most ambitious and energetic young business man, was shot through the heart by Constable "Powder" McDole in what appears to be a deliberate murder.

The constable accompanied City Policeman Hamp Lowery, who had been summoned by Oldham's wife Francola, after he had slapped her during an argument earlier in the day. Answering the call (no warrant had been issued) they found the cafe closed. When the place opened for business later they stopped in.

FEB 21 1941

According to eyewitnesses, Mr. and Mrs. Oldham were in their curtained-off living quarters at the rear of the building quarrelling and dividing their belongings for a separation. One of the officers is reputed to have said, "Let's just stay here until they start fighting and take them both over." The argument grew more heated. Through the half drawn curtain Oldham could be seen trying to look in a box his wife had packed while he was waiting on a customer. She was protesting and kept trying to pull him back when he shoved her on the bed, she retaliated by slapping him. He in return did the same and bending over the box began to pull the things out saying he had a right to see whether or not she was taking any of his possessions.

The officers rushed to the back with drawn black jacks and hit him several blows in quick succession at the base of the skull. Oldham somehow succeeded in turning around so they shoved and pulled him out of the living quarters hitting him all the while. Meanwhile most of those present in the cafe jumped up and ran out of the door. They were near the coin phonograph at the edge of the dance floor when Oldham managed to get a hold on both black jacks to prevent further beating.

McDole reached for his gun, Lowery, witnesses stated, said: "Don't do that Powder! Don't ——" But before he could finish the sentence the constable allegedly whipped out his gun and, deliberately aiming at Oldham's heart, fired. The young man staggered to the window, sank to his knees then slumped forward on his face. Officer Lowery ordered Joe Tom Richmond, patron who had remained in the cafe, to go for the ambulance. The others who had remained were told to get out.

When the chief of police, Charlie Sailors, arrived on the scene in raising him up to see where he was shot discovered that he was still breathing.

Oldham was not a native of Sparta. He came here more than two years ago with his employers, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mitchell. When he opened the Happy Hour cafe in the Masonic building, it soon became the pelasure haunt of everyone in town. He kept his job with the Mitchell family. They were very fond of him and backed him in anything he undertook in the business field. He had planned to buy and build a large cafe with a grocery store in the front and a real dance hall in the rear. He had as many white friends as Negro, white citizens of note who have openly expressing their feelings toward his untimely death.

According to a discussion with Oldham the Sunday before his death, he was informed that the law had been turning customers back and peeping through small holes in the front door (supposedly to catch a gambling game in the rear) and had it in for him because he was doing so well. As a result, he had told his wife not to have anyone else arrested who happened to get a little unruly in the cafe. He felt that he was capable of keeping order in his place. The officers claim they had been told by some of their "stools" the murdered man was selling whiskey, however, they had not been able to catch any illegal acts going on around his business. It is believed they felt that they were being "outsmarted" by Oldham an dresented it so much so that when his wife called them she unthinkingly gave them the opportunity to "show him." Eye-witnesses further contend they never once said "you are under arrest" or any other terms used in placing a man under arrest.

FEB 21 1941

Citizens between the ages of 50 and 80 cannot remember a Negro having been killed by police officers in Sparta before and a very few having been beaten until this particular group was elected and hired has been a sort of minor "reign of terror" for Negroes since they have been in office.

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

EX-CONVICT ADMITS WOMAN'S CLUBBING

APR 17 1941

(The Associated Press)

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 16.—An aged Negro ex-convict, indicted for the baseball bat murder of Mrs. Jane Fowler Cathey, 37 years old, was captured Tuesday night in Georgia 27 miles from Chattanooga.

Assistant Police Chief Homer Edmondson said the Negro, Walter Reed, had confessed to the murder committed last Saturday at the Cathey home in a fashionable residential district.

Mrs. Cathey, wife of Robert A. Cathey who is superintendent of the Chattanooga Traction Company, was clubbed to death when surprised while alone in her home.

The Negro was captured near Rising Fawn, Ga., by Deputy Sheriff J. H. Baty and a civilian, Milt Lee. They recognized him walking on the highway.

Edmondson quoted the Negro as saying he killed Mrs. Cathey while on a "crazy drunk" after he became angered at her reprimanding him for appearing at the house while under the influence of liquor. The assistant chief quoted him as saying Mrs. Cathey was the third person he had killed.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

Slaying Of Matron In Chattanooga Laid To Missing Gardener

APR 14 1941

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(AP)—Detective Chief Marion Perkins said Monday an indictment had been returned charging Walter Reed, aged Negro gardener and house servant, with the baseball bat murder of Mrs. Jane Fowler Cathey, 37, whose battered body was found in the living room of her home in a fashionable residential section last Saturday.

APR 14 1941

Perkins said the Grand Jury returned the indictment shortly after a warrant was issued for the Negro who is the object of an intensive search in this area.

Dist. Atty. Gen. Peabody Howard declined comment on whether an indictment had been returned, explaining that it was a rule not to reveal such charges until after arrest.

Rewards totaling $700 have been offered for the capture of the Negro, Police Chief Ray Bryan said.

Mrs. Cathey was the wife of Robert A. Cathey, superintendent of the Chattanooga Traction Company.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

NEGRO EXECUTED

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(AP)—Walter Reed, 55-year-old Negro, was executed in the state penitentiary electric chair early Friday for the brutal slaying of a Chattanooga housewife April 12. Reed admitted the crime.

JUL 19 1941

Pensacola, Fla. News
April 23, 1941

Negro Killings Need Attention

TOO LITTLE ATTENTION is paid to Negro killings among their own race. The South is wont to pay little or no heed to what happens in cases in which only Negroes are involved, but when a Negro and a white are involved, the Negro, if at fault, is assured of punishment.

However, Negro killings of other Negroes should receive more attention, for two reasons. First Negroes are entitled to fair treatment and should receive just punishment. Second, Negro criminals may not stop with killings in their own race.

Witness a recent case in Tennessee. Mrs. Jane Fowler Cathey, 37, wife of a superintendent of the Chattanooga Traction company, was beaten to death with a baseball bat by a Negro gardener because she remonstrated with him for coming to work intoxicated.

The Negro, arrested after a 72-hour chase, had this criminal record: He had killed a Negro youth, but was acquitted. Then he murdered his wife and served a penitentiary sentence. Later he stabbed a Negro woman and her daughter and served a workhouse sentence. At 56 he was free again and slew Mrs. Cathey.

This record would indicate that society would have been much better off if he had been convicted and given the death sentence for his first killing. Two other lives would have been saved. Evidently, his sentence for murdering his wife was not very lengthy, and in the third case in which no fatality occurred, he probably got a light sentence.

The result of the failure in three cases, two involving killings, to banish the Negro from society has finally resulted in a third murder involving a prominent white woman. The killer now probably will receive his punishment, but it comes too late.

Charlotte, N. C., News
April 17, 1941

A Record

Which Throws Some Light On a Number of Things

Last Saturday in Chattanooga the partially nude body of Mrs. Jane Cathey, wife of the president of the Chattanooga Traction Company, was found in her living room by her eleven-year-old daughter. She had been clubbed to death by a heavy instrument.

Yesterday a 55-year-old Negro, who had served as gardener to the Catheys, confessed to the police how he had killed her with a baseball bat while she begged for mercy. He hadn't liked her reprimands for coming to the house drunk.

What makes the case — of a relatively common type — interesting is the Negro's police record.

He had:

Been arrested and acquitted for the slaying of a Negro youth.

Served a sentence in the penitentiary for the murder of his wife.

Served a workhouse sentence for stabbing a Negro woman and her daughter.

The case seems to furnish pretty clear evidence as to what it costs white people to assume that crimes of Negroes against Negroes are of so little moment that they need to be punished only with nominal sentences.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Guard Kills White Man In Picnic Gun Battle

SEP 8 1941

Race Man Detailed to Guard Legion Affair, Shot By White Motorcyclist—Kills Adversary.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 6—A 24-year-old white motorcyclist was shot to death and a 46-year-old colored guard was seriously injured in a gun battle Friday night in downtown Nashville.

The injured man, Robert Hurt, porter for a local concern, told police officers he had been stationed at the intersection to keep automobiles from plowing into a picnic being held by the colored post of the American Legion.

The dead man was identified as Arthur (Monk) Gordy, Jr.

Hurt told officers he saw Gordy driving his motorcycle toward his post and attempted to flag him down. Gordy, according to Hurt, stopped and asked him if he had been deputizied.

CYCLIST FIRED GUN FIRST

SEP 8 1941

"I told him I had been ordered to direct traffic around the picnic," the guard related. "When I told him that, Hordy reached for his pistol. I started stepping back and he shot me. I didn't want to do it, but I then took out my gun and started shooting."

Police Lieut. Frank Osborne said the Legion Post had received permission to fence off the street for their picnic. Two patrolmen, he said had been assigned to help guard but were not at hand when the shooting happened. An estimated 10,000 were at the affair.

"Monk had a lot of trouble with the Negroes, recently," Bill Cummings, son of one of the officers investigating the shooting said. "That's why he was so quick to pull his gun."

For a while Friday night, police guarded Hubbard Hospital where Hurt was taken, but when full particulars of the shooting were obtained, the guard was withdrawn.

Police Chief John Griffin said he doubted if any charges would be filed against Hurt.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Cafe Owner Slain

DEC 1 - 1941

WILBURN H. MITCHELL

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (SNS)—**Owner of Mitchell's cafe and hotel at 160 Beale Avenue, was fatally shot by Arthur Lee Clemons, 20, of 114 Beale, Friday afternoon of last week. Mr. Mitchell died the following Sunday morning at John Gaston hospital.**

The assassin stood on the outside of the cafe and fired through the window at Mr. Mitchell as the cafe operator stood near the cigar counter talking with an associate of Clemons. He was arrested Monday by Deputy Sheriffs Land and Smith at Collierville and docketed on charges of murder in connection with the rifle killing.

DEC 1 - 1941

The ruthless slaying of Mr. Mitchell, who with his wife, Mrs. Mamie Mitchell, operated one of the most modern restaurants in the Mid-south, has aroused the Negro citizenry at large against the increasing vandalism and law violations on part of a number of irresponsible youths of this city. Attorney General Will Gerber has promised to prosecute the guilty parties to the fullest when the case is brought to trial.

DEC 1 - 1941

Mass for the slain man was held from St. Augustine's Catholic church Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock with Father Bertrand Kock in charge. Members of the Elks lodge held ceremonies at the wake Tuesday night at 11 o'clock at the residence, 1371 South Parkway.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

ASHCRAFT AND WARE RECEIVE SENTENCES

DEC 9 1941

Wallace Overrules Motions For New Murder Trial

Criminal Court Judge Wallace yesterday sentenced both E. E. Ashcraft and John Ware, negro, to 50 years in the penitentiary for the murder last Spring of Ashcraft's wife.

Sentence was passed after motions for a new trial on behalf of both men were overruled by Judge Wallace. Defense attorneys were given 30 days to prepare their bills of exception to the trial and jury verdict of guilty.

Both Ashcraft and the negro were found guilty last month of killing Mrs. Zelma Ashcraft and throwing her body in a slough near Raleigh. The jury fixed their punishment at not more than 50 years. Attorneys for both men have announced intentions of appealing.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
33-1941

KILLS PRISONER IN COURT; OUT ON BAIL

VICTIM TWICE SAVED FROM ELECTRIC CHAIR BY SUPREME COURT

By J. DON DAVIS, Staff Correspondent

CONROE, Tex., June 19—Murder in the courtroom wrote finis to as bizzare a chapter as has ever been enacted in the annals of law and order, when a pistol shot instantly snuffed out the life of Bob White, 31, Monday, while on trial for his life on charges of criminal assault on a white Texas woman back in 1937.

Just as the ninth juror was selected, thus furnishing a panel of 100 white veniremen summoned for the trial of the case, a shot rang out in the courtroom and ploughed its way through the brains of Bob White, coming out of his right ear. As a stunned courtroom full of white and colored spectators came back to animation, there stood W. S. "Dude" Cochran, with a smoking black .38 revolver in his hand, over the crumpled form of the murdered man.

NEGROES FEARED TROUBLE

When the spectators became conscious of the scene pandemonium broke loose. White men and women, court officials and jurymen, all scrambled to the front railing to congratulate Cochran, husband of the "raped" woman, on the "glory" of his deed and the upholding of the southern tradition by taking the law into his own hands to protect his woman.

As the whites broke to the front of the courtroom, the Negroes broke for the rear doors, fearing that this was the beginning of a wholesale reign of terror on the colored population.

A re-enactment of the scene shows that Cochran with his brothers had quietly left their seats and gone behind the railing that separates the spectators from the jurymen and the prisoner, and unseen had stealthily crept behind the prisoner, who at the time was paying little attention to the proceedings. Holding the gun three inches from Bob White's head, he fired one shot.

RELEASED ON BAIL

When the excitement had quieted, Cochran walked over to the table of Attorney Jimmie Foreman, hired as a special prosecutor in the case, handed him the gun and surrendered to a deputy sheriff. He was booked on a technical charge of murder and immediately released on $500 bond posted by a friend.

Conroe, 37 miles out of Houston, has remained quiet since the infuriated killer took justice in his own hands. No incidents of Negroes being molested has been brought to light.

Within a few minutes of the incident Cochran left the courtroom locked arms with his wife. They entered an automobile and drove off with Mrs. Cochran at the wheel. It is believed that no action will be taken against the white man.

JUDGE OVERRULED DEFENSE MOTION

White was first put on trial in September 1937 in Polk County, the scene of the alleged assault. He was convicted and sentenced to death but an appeal was taken to the Texas Supreme Court and from there to the U. S. Supreme Court, which reversed the findings and sent the case back for trial.

Had the requests of Attorney J. P. Rogers, representing the accused man, been granted it is believed justice would have played its role. Attorney Rogers asked for a change of venue that would have taken the trial to another county and when that was refused, he requested the quashing of the venire on grounds that Negroes had been excluded. Judge W. B. Prowder denied the motion although it was on similar grounds that the U. S. Supreme Court reversed the conviction.

Demand Electric Chair For Texas Murderer

CONROE, Tex.—(Special)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Negro Congress, through its representatives are demanding that Texas authorities send W. S. Cochran, (white) wealthy landowner to the electric chair for the brutal slaying of Bob White in a crowded district court here Tuesday afternoon.

Cochran, who walked into the court room with pistol in hand, fired a bullet into the brain of White as he awaited the selection of a jury. Cochran surrendered after the slaying and was released on $500 bail.

White, whose death sentence had been reversed, once by the Texas court and once by the United States Supreme Court, was charged with attacking Mrs. Cochran.

In a statement to newspapermen, the National Negro Congress representative declared:

"The lynching of Bob White in Conroe, Texas, is the most reprehensive example of the type of 'democracy' enjoyed by the Negro talk so glibly and so hypocritically about 'defending democracy.' The lynching of Negroes is no less a brand of Hitlerism and Fascism than the murdering of Jews in Germany and the suppression of labor in the Fascist countries throughout Europe as well as here at home.

"The seizure of the North American Aircraft corporation by the government to protect the property of the corporation and to coerce the aircraft workers in Los Angeles county presents an interesting question in relation to lynching at this particular time. The federal government exposes itself as a protector of private property and profits, while it will not protect human life and safeguard the Negro people from the lynchers whether they be by pistols in courts, as in Conroe, Texas, or by the lynchers' rope."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

TEXAS COURT ROOM MURDER

In a court room in Conroe, Texas, last Tuesday, was enacted a murder under the very eyes of judge and jurors. It was done in characteristic Texas fashion. In a crowded district court where a Negro charged with rape was on trial for the third time, a wealthy Texas landowner calmly walked over to the railing with a pistol in his hand, and in full view of guards and police officers, shot and killed the Negro.

The ninth juror, according to reports, had just been chosen for the third trial of Bob White whose death sentence had been reversed, once by the Texas court of criminal appeals and once by the United States Supreme Court, when the fatal shooting took place.

So unpardonable a disregard for the majesty of the law could only occur in the Southland where white men are accustomed to take the law into their own hands. Here was a man sentenced to death under circumstances so questionable as to force the Texas court of criminal appeals, if you please, and the Supreme Court of the United States to reverse the sentence. It is evident that inadequate proofs of guilt and inconclusive evidence led the two tribunals to reverse the decision of the lower court. But that did not satisfy the wealthy Texas whose I.Q. is probably lower than that of the man he killed.

Now that Bob White has been killed for a crime he perhaps did not commit, his murderer should be charged with first degree murder and contempt of the court. This barbarian and others of his type must be made to understand that no interference with the administration of justice is tolerated by civilized society. For, if such a wanton disregard for the due process of the law were allowed to go unpunished, we might as well adopt the law of the jungle.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Texas Justice

LAST week Robert White, who was being tried for rape, was killed in a court room by the husband of the woman who claimed she was raped. A jury was being chosen to hear for the third time the case of a Negro which Texas' and the nation's highest courts had each reversed.

Slayer W. S. Cochran was evidently impatient with the American system of jurisprudence especially when a Negro was to benefit from it. He chose rather to be judge, jury, prosecutor and executioner. He did not believe in trial by jury, in the right of an individual to be deprived of his life without due process of law or in liberty and justice. The court all but openly agreed with him when it released him on a $500 bond—a bond usually fixed in disorderly conduct cases.

Cochran's act was not only a gross insult to the Negro people of this country but was an affrontery with malicious contempt to the ideals of democracy, the principles of our constitution and the tenets of a civilized people. No savage could have been more ruthless and no heathen more cruel than the Texan whose wealth has been acquired by the sweat from the brows of men who are members of his victim's race.

Nothing short of the electric chair should be his fate. The Texas courts will perhaps make him the hero of 1941. That is the way they do things south of the Mason-and-Dixon line. They propose to show how swiftly "justice" can act when Negroes are involved. The German fuehrer could not excel the depth of criminal disobedience that is visited upon Negroes of the South.

Because the nation is experiencing a crisis the murder was extremely unfortunate. The entire Negro race is protesting against the denial of simple justice to it while the nation is selling the world about its efforts to save and preserve democracy and some "four freedoms" for posterity.

American Negroes do not propose to fight to preserve a democracy to perpetuate a system that will permit a Cochran to walk into a courtroom and fire into the brains of a man who is on trial. American Negroes want to fight to create a real democracy and one that will go the full length to discourage and punish Cochran and his kind and to dissuade men who countenance his views from making mockery out of our courts of justice and sabotaging the ideals of democracy.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Widow Recounts Murder Of Mate In Court-Room

HOUSTON, Texas.—In the crowded auditorium of Good Hope Baptist church here last week, Mrs. Rubie Lee White, 33-year-old widow of Bob White, murdered before her eyes in a Conroe, Texas, courtroom week before last, told delegates to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People conference meeting here that:

"The gun sounded like a bomb. I had to stop my ears. When I looked up there was a big hole in Bob's head and blood was running down the back of his neck."

Mrs. White, dressed in mourning was introduced to the audience by Walter White, NAACP secretary. She held the crowd soundless as she echoed the words of her husband on the day he died. She stated that they had hoped the Supreme Court decision in White's favor had ended the case and that she asked him why he was being brought to trial again.

"Bob said, 'I don't know that, but God knows and I know that I'm innocent, and I'd rather die than go through the torture I've been through these last years.'"

Speaking in a soft voice she ended her story with the picture of the courtroom shooting when W. S. Cochran, Texas landowner and husband of the victim of the alleged crime walked up to the chair in which Bob White was sitting and shot him in the head.

There was complete silence when she finished.

More than $100 was collected for the widow from voluntary contributions by delegates, visitors and friends.

The audience was urged by NAACP officials to flood the department of justice, offices of senators and the White House with demands that Cochran's case be reopened and that he be brought to justice. The legal staff of the NAACP is investigating all phases of the case preparing to take action. Walter White promised that the NAACP would fight this case until "hell freezes over."

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

His Widow Describes Tragedy

Conference at Houston Gives Mrs. White $115

HOUSTON. — Dressed in mourning, Mrs. Rubie Lee White, 33-year-old widow of Bob White, appeared before the N. A. A. C. P. conference on Wednesday night, June 25, and told the large crowd how her husband was murdered before her eyes in a Conroe, Texas, courtroom week before last.

"The gun sounded like a bomb. I had to stop my ears. When I looked up there was a big hole in Bob's head and blood was running down the back of his neck."

Mrs. White was introduced to the audience by Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary. She held the crowd soundless as she echoed the words of her husband on the day he died. She stated that they had hoped the Supreme Court decision in White's favor had ended the case and that she asked him why he was being brought to trial again.

'I'm Innocent'

Bob said: "I don't know that, but God knows and I know that I'm innocent, and I'd rather die than go through the torture I've been through these last years."

Speaking in a soft voice she ended her story with the picture of the courtroom shooting when W. S. Cochran, Texas, landowner and husband of the alleged victim of the crime, walked up to the chair in which Bob White was sitting and shot him in the head.

The murdered man's wife said simply, "And that was how the tragedy ended at five minutes after twelve on Tuesday, the tenth of June."

There was complete silence when she had finished.

More than $100 was collected for the widow from voluntary contributions by delegates, visitors and friends.

The legal staff announced that the Bob White case is not closed. N. A. A. C. P. attorneys are investigating all angles of the case with the intention of reopening prosecution of W. S. Cochran who killed White. The audience was urged to flood the department of justice, and offices of congressmen with demands that Cochran's case be reopened.

Affidavits Obtained

An affidavit was obtained from Mrs. White and affidavits are being taken from other eye witnesses of the murder.

Mrs. White testified that at the time her husband was shot there was not a police officer in the courtroom. After the selection of the ninth juror, she stated, just before 12 o'clock, the three sheriffs who had been in the courtroom all morning, left one by one.

She declared that the court was adjourned until one o'clock and that the only person sitting near Bob White was his lawyer, when Cochran got up and fired the fatal shot.

Mrs White said "The judge did not make any comment one way or the other. He did not say anything. He did not even get up."

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.

PROBE MURDER OF YOUTH IN COURT ROOM

HOUSTON, Texas—The Bob White case is not closed. This announcement was made by the legal staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People before delegates from 36 states at the 32nd conference of the NAACP which met here June 24 to 28.

An affidavit was obtained from Mrs. Bob White, widow of the man who was shot in the courtroom at Conroe, Texas, June 10, and additional affidavits are being taken from other eyewitnesses of the murder.

Mrs. White testified that at the time her husband was shot there was no police officer in the courtroom After the selection of the ninth juror, she stated, just before twelve o'clock, the three sheriffs who had been in the courtroom all morning left one by one.

She declared that the court was adjourned until one o'clock and that the only person sitting near Bob White was his lawyer when Cochran got up and fired the shot that killed White

Mrs. White said: "The judge did not make any comment one way or the other. He did not say anything He did not even get up."

NAACP attorneys are investigating all angles of the case with the intention of reopening prosecution of W. S. Cochran ,who killed White.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

70-Year-Old Negro Shot in Back By White Farmer

Murdered Man Killed With .22-Caliber Rifle When He Calls Slayer "A Liar"

Mr. Mayes Carmichael, 70, was killed here Wednesday afternoon by Robert Charpiot, white, who fired two bullets from a .22-caliber rifle into his back as he ran down a dirt road off the Beaumont highway.

Mr. Carmichael's death was the result of an argument with Charpiot over his two sons being forced to ride in the rain on the rear of a truck hauling material from Houston to the farm.

When Charpiot called Carimchael a lie during the course of the argument the deceased replied with "You're another." At this point Charpiot went to his home and obtained the rifle with which he committed the slaying.

The white man was released in Judge Moorhead's court on promise to appear before the sheriff later in the day, which he did not do. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

OFFICER BOUND TO GRAND JURY FOR SHOOTING NEGRO

GALVESTON, Texas—Justice of the Peace Edwin Bruce at Alta Loma, referred the charges against H. R. Owens, state highway officer, for the shooting of John Gray, Jr., Negro worker at Camp Hitchcock, January 9, 1941, to the Galveston County Grand Jury. Gray was shot in the right leg when the officer left the highway and went over where a group of Negroes and whites were gathered around the fire waiting their turn to get employment at the camp project.

FEB 1 1941

According to defense witness, Officer Owens came over and singled Gray out who was standing and said to him, "Say, boy, bring me up some dice." Gray replied, "I don't have any."

"Then search yourself," the officer demanded. At this time the boy turned his pockets out and was ordered to pull off his jacket. After then, Gray was ordered to hit the highway meaning to go over to the other side near the gates of the camp. As he started off, the officer fired his pistol three times, one bullet striking Gray's leg above the ankle penetrating and lodging in the bone. According to reports from hospital attaches he is permanently injured.

Witnesses testified that Officer Ownes denied Gray ambulance service to the hospital but instead took him to a hut at the army camp, bandaged him up and put him out at the scene of the shooting. Gray testified that the officer made him wash his own leg when he took him off, then took him back where the shooting occured and said "Here's where I got you and here's where I'm leaving you."

Charges Filed

Harvey Mitchell, defense witness, testified he secured the service of a car and carried Gray to Galveston where he attempted to file charges against the officer and get Gray in the hospital, just as they were near Twenty-second street in downtown Galveston and parked near an attorney's office, Officer Owens, who had trailed their car, stopped them and asked "Where you niggers going?" Harvey said "To file charges for the way you treated this man."

"Since you so d— smart, hand him over to me," the officer demanded and took Gray to jail. When the jailer saw the boy was wounded and suffering, he rufsed Owens to admit him. Gray testified he took him back to Alta Loma and left and was never told he was under arrest.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

70-Year-Old Negro Shot in Back By White Farmer

Murdered Man Killed With .22-Caliber Rifle When He Calls Slayer "A Liar"

Mr. Mayes Carmichael, 70, was killed here Wednesday afternoon by Robert Charpiot, white, who fired two bullets from a .22-caliber rifle into his back as he ran down a dirt road off the Beaumont highway.

JUL 3 1941

Mr. Carmichael's death was the result of an argument with Charpiot over his two sons being forced to ride in the rain on the rear of a truck hauling material from Houston to the farm.

When Charpiot called Carimchael a lie during the course of the argument the deceased replied with "You're another." At this point Charpiot went to his home and obtained the rifle with which he committed the slaying.

JUN 1 1941

The white man was released in Judge Moorhead's court on promise to appear before the sheriff later in the day, which he did not do. A warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Bob White Murdered in Cold Blood While on Trial for Life in Texas

Atrocious Act Amounts to Lynching; Contempt of Texas Courts Seen in Retired Rancher's Deed, Man Is Released After Posting $500 Bond

JUN 1941

CONROE, Texas — (Special to The CALL) — Violent death wrote finis to the epoch-making case of Bob White, here Tuesday afternoon when W. S. Cochran, retired white Texas rancher, in cold-blooded an atrocity as has been credited to the Lone Star State, shot and killed White in a crowded courtroom.

White's slaying amounts to nothing short of a lynching, and the mere fact that it was accomplished right under the nose of law-enforcement officials gives rise to the belief that someone is guilty of criminal neglect of a prisoner. Defenseless, and un-protected, White could do nothing but watch Cochran approach, gun in hand, with a hate-contorted face, to kill him.

The slaying threw into turmoil the crowd of white and colored spectators. The fatal shot was fired at 12:30 p m., just as the ninth juror was selected to try the case. Cochran, with pistol in hand, advanced within a foot of the defendant to perform his daring deed. Then, with upraised hands, he surrendered immediately. White's death was instant, the bullet going through his head.

Twice Saved from Chair

Bob White's spectacular trial attracted nation-wide attention from the outset, and due to the relentless, tireless fight of the N. A. A. C. P., White was saved from death in the electric chair on two occasions by Supreme Court reversals. For four long and bitter years, White watched, and waited, while the N. A. A. C. P. carried the fight for his life from court to court—only to lose in an act which recklessly disregarded the authority of courts.

The high tension during the trial was warning enough for the law enforcement agents to throw a cordon around White, and feelings were great enough to warrant a search of spectators, especially those interested in the ultimate outcome. That negligence cost White his life.

County District Attorney Foreman allowed Cochran, husband of the woman White was accused of criminally attacking some four years ago at Livingston, Texas, his freedom under $500 bond shortly after the cold-blooded, brutal killing.

Had Chance for Freedm

F. S Whittaker, Houston attorney who had been acting for the accused man, was not present at the trial, and many believe that his absence prevented him from being a victim of violence.

White had been re-indicted three weeks ago. The statute of limitations caused a dismissal of the case in Conroe on Monday, and he was to be re-tried on an old indictment Tuesday The N. A. A. C. P. was called into the case when they received evidenc White was "railroaded" at his first trial.

A series of minor decisions in White's favor caused many to think that he might eventually gain his freedom because the evidence wasn't of sufficient strength to warrant his execution, and is believed to have motivated Cochran to show his utter disregard of, and sheer contempt for, the Texas courts, law and order, to say nothing of White's constitutional right to a fair trial.

JUN 13 1941

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Texas Court Room Murder Outrage; Even Texans Nauseated By Incident

AMERICAN courts were outraged three weeks ago when a man walked into a Texas court room and blew out the brains of a prisoner on trial for an assault on his wife.

The man was held in $500 bail for the killing. A few days later he was acquitted and sent home a free man. The jury "deliberated" about two minutes.

Bob White—that was the name of the defendant, was murdered in cold blood. The man who shot him is a murderer under all the definitions of murder. But he does not even have to enter a prison. He is set free under nominal bail and a few days later he is sent home with the blood of a man upon his head.

JUN 10 1941

The stench will arise and nauseate every civilized human being. Even the benighted Texans will rue the day, because no enlightened person can ever again lift his head with pride in the decency and fairness of Texas courts.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

ACCUSED NEGRO KILLED BY ENRAGED HUSBAND OF WOMAN HE WAS BEING TRIED FOR RAPE; MURDERER FREED ON BOND

Death By .38 Calibre Pistol Comes To Livingston Negro As Trial Enters Second Dav In Conroe; Was Saved Two Times By United States Supreme Court.

CONROE, Texas —(Special)— Bob White was murdered here in the Conroe Courthouse by W.S. Cochran, white, husband of the woman alledgedly raped by White in 1937, thus bringing to an end the four year-old case which twice has seen action in the United States Supreme Court.

Coming on the eve of two of the largest in the country, the National Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which convene in Houston this month, the murder of Bob White has resounded throughout the nation.

Not yet erased from the memory of Texans is the sensational lynching of a Negro prior to Houston's entertaining of the National Democratic Convention some years ago.

The murder of Bob White occurred while the Conroe court was packed with spectators and the ninth juror had been selected for the third trial of White. It all happened so sudden that an immediate stampede took place among the spectators a large portion of whom were Negroes.

Cochran made no effort to escape but turned calmly around and handed his pistol to one of the court attaches and permitted himself to be arrested. He was freed a few minutes later under $500 bond signed by two of his friends.

The alleged rape for which White was to be tried saw it first court action in Livingstone in 1937. At this trial White was found guilty and sentenced to die in the electric chair. This decision however was ruled out by the Criminal Court of Appeals and the case moved over to Conroe.

At Conroe, White was again found guilty and sentenced to die. However, a written confession was introduced into court which was allegedly signed by White in Beaumont, shortly after his apprehension for the crime. It was this confession that Justice Hugo Black of the United States Supreme Court ruled was obtained through coercion and force and on which basis he reversed the decision of the Texas court.

Efforts to re-indict White under new charges proved useless under the statutes of limitations which decree that a rape case must be brought to trial not later than 12 months after the first occurrance.

At the time White was arrested and testimony brought out in the trial have thrown considerable doubts as to White's guilt in the minds of Texas citizens both white and colored.

First, plaster-paris casts of foot-prints found on the ground outside of Mrs. Cochran's window did not match White's foot.

Second, substantial evidence of White's whereabouts on the night of the alleged crime have never been ascertained.

Third, and no doubt the most important factor in the trial, Mrs. Cochran's throughout the four-years have never positively identified White as her attacker.

The Bob White case has had the active support both moral and financial of the NAACP. It was through this organization's efforts that attorneys were sent to Washington to carry the case before the United States Supreme Court.

Brought out in the beginning of the third trial here Monday morning was the startling revelation that White was doomed from the start if the selection of the jurors meant any thing. Several jurors openly confessed that they were not in a position, by virtue of their opinions on the situation, to give White a fair verdict in the trial.

When the defense attorney, defending White, put the question to one juror if he was called to judge a case involving a white man and a Negro woman and then a case involving a Negro man and a white woman, would he be able to render the same just verdict on the evidence submitted. The gentleman up for jury service shook his head and confessed that he could not render a fair verdict to the Negro.

Cochran's indictment for murder has been turned over to the grand jury which is now convening in Montgomery county.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

TEXAN TURNS STORM TROOPER, KILLS ACCUSED NEGRO IN COURT

CONROE, Texas.—Impatient because on two occasions the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court has reversed a Negro's death sentence, W. S. Cochran, wealthy white landowner, turned Storm Trooper and shot Bob White, Negro, charged with raping Mrs. Cochran, in the back of the head as the court was selecting a jury for the third trial.

Cochran walked up to the railing where the defendant sat and fired one shot. The bullet crashed through the back of White's head. Then without a word Cochran walked over to the prosecutor and surrendered the weapon.

A few minutes later as the slayer was being charged with murder, J. L. Pitts, wealthy oil man, rushed up to shake Cochran's hand and signed a bond for $500. Cochran then drove peacefully home.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

THE TEXAS MURDER

The Texas courtroom murder to which we called the attention of our readers two weeks ago, has had healthy repercussions in many unsuspected quarters. Voices hitherto silent on questions affecting the status of the Negro in America have to our great surprise burst forth into flaming denunciation of the brazen barbarism that the state of Texas has paraded before our eyes.

It was bad enough for the wealthy Texas landowner to take the law into his own hand when he shot a poor, helpless black man who was on trial for a crime he probably did not commit, but when the court after only two minutes of deliberation exonerated the wealthy Texan, it reaffirmed in blood the old Civil war dictum that the Negro had no right which a white man was bound to respect.

This certainly is not an ecouraging outlook for a nation that is girding itself to fight Fascism and the murderous gangs headed by Hitler and Mussolini. It appears to us a clear indication that Texas has perfected the totalitarian technique of murdering. The Negro therefore must not overlook the enemy at home while he prepares himself for a show-down with the enemy abroad.

Negro Is Slain, Two More Shot in Katy Road Fracas

Fourth Faces Murder Charge

One negro was killed and two were wounded in a shooting scrape Sunday afternoon in a house on the Katy highway about four miles outside the city limits.

The dead negro is Jim Jackson, about 35, at whose home the shooting took place. The wounded negroes are L. C. Williams and Andrew Jackson, no kin to Jim Jackson.

Faces Charge

A fourth negro, Jesse Matthews, 30, was charged before Justice Tom Maes with murder and assault to murder. He was placed in the county jail.

Three deputy sheriffs—Frank Nevill, W. A. Storey and O. H. Gatton—investigated.

They said the trouble started when Matthews went to Jim Jackson's home to tell his wife, Agnes, to come home. She declined. There ensued, the deputies said, a little squabble and Matthews produced a knife. At this, they said, Williams yanked a razor out of his pocket.

Returns With Rifle

Matthews left Jackson's home then, went back to his home and returned a little later with a .22 rifle. Jim Jackson was shot in the chest. He said, the deputies died a few minutes later.

Andrew Jackson was outside the gun. Williams, playing a peace-maker, tried to take the shotgun away from Jackson and was shot in the left arm. Hearing all the noise, he ran in and was shot in the right arm. The arm was broken. Then, they said, Mat-

33-1941
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

TEXAS FREES COURTROOM SLAYER IN TWO MINUTES

Rancher Who Shot Bob White in Back Praised By District Attorney

By John H. Thompson

CONROE, TEXAS.—IT TOOK A TEXAS JURY ONLY TWO MINUTES TO FREE W. S. COCHRAN, WHITE, WHO SHOT AND KILLED BOB WHITE IN A COURTROOM HERE LAST TUESDAY. COCHRAN WAS FREED IN THE SAME COURTROOM IN WHICH HE BRAZENLY AND IN COLD BLOOD SHOT WHITE IN THE BACK.

Large crowds cheered the verdict of "not guilty" after a trial of three hours during which time Cochran was all but made a hero for his dastardly act.

Zimmie Foreman, once special prosecutor against White, now defense attorney for Cochran, read the "confession" of White which the United States supreme court ruled illegal because it was secured under duress.

W. C. McClain, the district attorney, plead with the jury for Cochran's freedom. "The time has not come," he said, "and I trust that it never will come, when any man, Negro or white, can steal into a man's house and ravish his wife and go free."

McClain admitted that the guilt of White was in doubt. Without the "confession" secured from force, White would not have been convicted, the district attorney said.

He continued, "Gentlemen, I admit that the law failed. It failed through no fault of any of us. It is unfortunate that Mr. Cochran was forced to what was done."

The state produced no witnesses and introduced no evidence against Cochran although the slaying of White was committed boldly while the court was in session. The grand jury had indicted Cochran.

The N. A. A. C. P., which will hold its annual conference in Houston next week, is expected to take action against the Conroe travesty on justice.

CONROE, Texas. — Bob White never had a chance for his life! He sat in a crowded courtroom here last Tuesday with his back to his slayer. He was shot and killed in cold-blood by W. S. Cochran, retired rancher and husband of the white woman White is alleged to have assaulted. He didn't have a chance.

Never before in all the history of Texas has a man in a courtroom on trial for his life been slain in front of judge and prospective jurors.

Despite his open defiance of the law, Cochran, the killer, was released instantly on bail of less than $500 and walked from the courtroom a free man. His case has been investigated by the grand jury and though the murder was clearly premeditated, citizens here openly say that he will never be brought to justice.

White, whose guilt has been questioned by many of those who have examined the records of the case, was in the hands of the law, under the jurisdiction of the court when his life was snuffed out.

Cochran Walks Out of Court, Comes Back with Gun

Cochran walked outside the courtroom during the selection of jurors, came back in with a pistol in his hand, walked to within a few feet of White, and calmly and cooly fired one shot with the .38 calibre pistol. Without a word, he then raised both hands, walked to the county sheriff and surrendered.

Former District Attorney Foreman, now a special prosecutor in the case, was heard to tell Cochran 'not to worry' as he would see he 'was granted bond at once.'

Spectators, nearly half of whom were Negroes, were in a pandemonium following the firing of the shot. All broke for windows and doors, scattering pellmell through the corridors and town. Colored pople, fearing for their lives, immediately left Conroe, noted for its hatred of and mistreatment of colored citizens.

White never stirred after the shot. Doctors said he died instantly. The bullet passed through his head and lodged in a wall at the courthouse.

Supreme Court Twice Saved White from Chair

Accused four years ago by Mrs. Cochran, White was arrested and convicted of rape, a capital offense in Texas. Beaten and made to confess, the supreme court twice reversed the lower courts. Up for trial for the third time Monday, the court dismissed one indictment against him, his attorney, J. S. Rogers, white, of Houston, arguing that the statuee of limitations debarred him from being tried again. In Texas, rape cases must be tried within one year of the happening to be legal, according to lawyers.

Immediately Grits on another indictment, White sat in the courtroom during selection of jurors. On Monday, 37 men were called, and out of this group only two were selected. Racial bias caused the dismissal of most of these prospective jurors. By Tuesday, only nine men had been selected for the jury. It was while selecting the ninth juror that Cochran murdered White.

White's case had attracted national attention because of the legal precedents established by opinions of the supreme court. They ruled that a confession obtained under duress or force, could not be used in a trial; also that where colored persons were deliberately and systematically excluded from jury service in a county, that the defendant did not have a fair trial.

Tension in Conroe during the third trial was [illegible] high. All signs pointed to White being freed. It is thought by some citizens that Cochran had deliberately planned to take the life of White, who was said by many citizens of his home town, Livingston, not to be guilty.

Deputy Sheriff Made No Move to Halt Slayer

The N.A.A.C.P., interested in the case from the start in 1937, is now seeking ways and means of exacting justice for the slain man. Attention of national leaders of the association during the coming convention in Houston, will be directed on this case, it was said here by local association leaders.

In commenting on the murder of White, many of those who attended the [illegible] was "inconceivable that a man who had sworn to take the life of the defendant, should be permitted to walk into the courtroom with a pistol in his hands."

Attorney Foreman stated he thought that the man had the pistol as evidence and was introducing it when he walked in the courtroom. "I never thought he was going to kill White," he told reporters.

Although deputy sheriffs were [illegible] all about the courtroom, none made a move to stop Cochran, even after the one shot was fired. The man surrendered to the sheriff who [illegible] room long after [illegible] was fired. N.A.A.C.P officials here condemn as cowardly the action of an armed man deliberately murdering an unarmed man.

Is this is being written, nothing

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

EXTRA!!

Texans Cheer Murderer Freed For Brutal Crime

CONROE, Texas — (Special)—This little Texas town declared a holiday and W. S. "Dude" Cochran, wealthy white plantation owner, was lauded as a hero for the brutal slaying of Bob White in a crowded courtroom last week. White was on trial for an alleged rape on Cochran's wife.

It took the jury of white men, all friends of Cochran, just two minutes to return a verdict of "not guilty" after District Attorney W. C. McClain, in a fiery address declared "In my opinion the guilty person got justice."

When the verdict was read by the foreman of the jury cheers rang out and there was a general handshaking of Cochran and his wife. Anticipating the acquittal, hundreds of women brought flowers which were showered upon Mrs. Cochran. A mammoth parade was held through the principal streets.

White, a well known member of the race, had charged that he was "framed" and as a result was freed twice on appeals. At the third trial last week, Cochran walked calmly up to the railing with a gun in hand and fired a bullet into White's brain. The man died instantly.

Planned to Kill

According to reports here it was known the night before the trial that Cochran was going to murder White in the courtroom. He had boasted that "I'll end this damn thing tomorrow with my forty-five; to hell with this rotten court foolishness." Cochran made no pretense at shielding what he intended to do when he approached the courtroom. He had his weapon in hand, brushed spectators aside and declared: "Where's that nigger, I'm gonna blow his brains out and end this wrangle." When Cochran approached White, who was seated with his back to him, all near him including lawyers and deputy sheriff conveniently moved to one side and let the murderer take dead aim. White topped over without a murmur. The judge's remark was: "Well, gentlemen, I guess that ends it."

Friends of Cochran have planned a banquet for him, in order, they say "to quiet his nerves." The local Y.M.C.A. refused, however, to rent its auditorium for the purpose.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Free Rich Texan Who Killed Negro On Trial In Court

MONROE, Texas—W. S. (Dude) Cochran, wealthy Texas plantation owner, was acquitted in two minutes here Monday of the courtroom shooting last Tuesday of Bob White, Negro, accused of raping Mrs. Cochran in 1937.

The speedy acquittal came after District Attorney W. C. McClain in his address to the jury, told them that "in my opinion the guilty person got justice" when White was shot to death.

"I have always said that I would never ask a jury to do anything that I wouldn't do myself. If I were on the jury," McClain said, "I would not hesitate a minute to find the defendant not guilty."

There was hearty applause for the speech and McClain got almost as many handshakes for it as Cochran and his wife when the jury filed in with a verdict in two minutes. The whole trial took less than three hours.

White, twice convicted of attacking Mrs. Cochran and each time saved from the electric chair by a higher court, was shot dead on June 10th as he was about to be tried for the third time on the same charge.

White had been defended since August, 1937, by lawyers engaged by the NAACP. As his third trial was about to begin and just as the ninth juror had been accepted, Cochran jumped to his feet, approached to within a foot of the defendant, drew a .38 calibre pistol and sent a bullet into the Negro's head, killing him instantly and throwing the courtroom into panic.

Without saying a word, Cochran stepped up to Zimmie Forman, an old friend who was special prosecutor, and handed him the gun. He hesitated for a moment, then raised his hand in the air as Deputy Sheriff Herschel Surrat came forward.

Sheriff Grover Mostyn and Surrat took Cochran before Justice of the Peace J. W. McDaniel, where he was charged with murder and released in $500 bond.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

'OUTRAGEOUS' SAY WILLKIE, U. OF C. PREXY

NAACP Decides It Won't Cancel National Meet In Houston

NEW YORK.—Stating that "the murder of White by Cochran is an outrage which will go far to limit our pretensions of being capable to establish the four freedoms everywhere," Robert M. Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago, wired to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People his strong opinion concerning the courtroom murder of Bob White in Conroe, Texas, by a wealthy landowner.

Wendell Willkie, 1940 presidential candidate, asked by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for a 50 word statement, wired in reply: "It does not take 50 words to say 'outrageous'."

The N.A.A.C.P. and the National Negro Congress, through their representatives, demanded last week that Texas authorities send the landowner, W. S. Cochran, to the electric chair for the brutal slaying of Bob White in a crowded district court in Conroe on Tuesday, June 10.

Cochran, who walked into the court room with pistol in hand, fired a bullet into the brain of White as he awaited the selection of a jury. Cochran surrendered after the slaying and was released on $500 bail.

White, whose death sentence had been reversed, once by the Texas court and once by the United States Supreme court, was charged with attacking Mrs. Cochran.

It is a matter of fact that after his arrest three years ago White was beaten and intimidated into making a statement, drawn up by Zimmie Forman, intimate friend of Cochran, who was also appointed special prosecutor in the case. Sheriff R. D. Holliday had to deputize nearly 100 armed men and call upon several Texas Rangers to protect the prisoner on the day of the trial and as a result was forced to resign his office, which he had held for nearly two decades.

It is also a matter of record that during the trial all Negroes, estimated at a third of the population, were driven out of town. The few who were summoned to testify in his defense and who could establish the fact the he was at home asleep at the time of the alleged attack, were placed under armed guard in the jury room and even escorted to the witness chair under armed guard. They were so terrified that their testimony could hardly be heard.

This trial which resulted in White's conviction was deemed by the Texas Court of Appeals as so faulty that it reversed the conviction and ordered a new trial. After the retrial and a second appeal, this time to the U. S. Supreme court, the second conviction was reversed.

The N.A.A.C.P. immediately wired the Department of Justice to begin an investigation of the shooting under the United States code covering civil rights.

After suggestions from numerous sources that the thirty-second annual conference of N.A.A.C.P. in Houston, Texas, June 24 to 29 be canceled, it was decided in meeting to go ahead with the conference as scheduled and to carry the fight against this outlawry to the state of its origin. Among those who favored cancellation of the annual meeting was Carl Murphy, editor of the Baltimore Afro-American and member of the board of directors of N.A.A.C.P.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

WHITE, INNOCENT, A TEXAS MARTYR!

The N. A. A. C. P. says: "It is a matter of fact that after his arrest three years ago White was beaten and intimidated into making a statement, drawn up by Zimmie Forman, intimate friend of Cochran, who was also appointed special prosecutor in the case; that Sheriff R. D. Holliday had to deputize nearly 100 armed men and call upon several Texas Rangers to protect the prisoner on the day of the trial and as a result was forced to resign his office, which he had held for nearly two decades.

It is also a matter of record that during the trial all Negroes, estimated at a third of the population, were driven out-of-town. The few who were summoned to testify in his defense and who could establish the fact that he was at home asleep at the time of the alleged attack, were placed under armed guard in the jury room and even escorted to the witness chair under armed guard. They were so terrified that their testimony could hardly be heard.

This trial which resulted in White's conviction was deemed by the Texas Court of Appeals as so faulty that it reversed the conviction and ordered a new trial. After the retrial and a second appeal, this time to the U. S. Supreme Court, the second conviction was reversed.

Cochran was released on a low bail of $500.

The NAACP immediately wired the Department of Justice to begin an investigation of the shooting under the United States code covering civil rights.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Another White Texan Shoots Negro In Back

70-Year-Old Farmer Shot After He 'Talked Back'

HOUSTON—(ANP)— The wave of shooting Negroes in the back continues in this section of Texas. Mayes Carmichael, 70-year-old farmer, was shot early this week by Robert Charpiot, white farmer, who accuses the Negro of calling him a liar. Carmichael's sons told police that their father called the white man a liar after the white man had called him the same.

Two shots fired from a .22 rifle struck the elderly man in the back as he ran down a highway. According to the sons, in an argument the white man called the colored man a liar and the colored man retorted "you're another". The white man then returned to his home seized the rifle and fired the fatal shots while Carmichael was running away from him.

Despite the killing the slayer was not lodged in jail immediately. A justice conducted a perfunctory inquest, permitted the killer to deliver himself to the sheriff and make a statement.

JUL 8 1941

This is the third killing of a Negro by a white man in the past few months, in this section of the state. Bob White was killed in a courtroom recently and a colored man by the name of Jack Oattes was killed by a shotgun blast during April. None of the killers has been punished.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Dallas N.A.A.C.P. Fights To Save Man Who Killed In Defense of Own Life

OCT 3 1941

DALLAS, Texas.— In an effort to prevent L. C. Akins from being sentenced to death by the local courts, the Dallas branch of the N. A.A.C.P. is making a drive for $1,000 defense fund for the 26-year-old janitor who fatally shot a policeman, off-duty, here September 15.

According to the stories, the policeman, Leon Morris, attempted to hold Akins back from entering a street car ahead of several white women. It is claimed that Akins drew a knife. The policemen shot the young janitor in the right side. Wounded, Akins fought for his life and in the ensuing scuffle, picked up the policeman's gun and fired one shot at close range. The officer died of the bullet wound in the ambulance on the way to Emergency hospital.

Several passengers on the street car pursued Akins who fled to the police headquarters in the basement of city hall where he handed the revolver to the desk sergeant and surrendered.

The local daily press reports that Akins is the third Negro to shoot a policeman in Dallas in 14 years.

Dallas is the city where police stood by ineffectively while hoodlums committed 19 acts of violence (most of them bombings) against Negro homeowners in one year.

Negro Labor News
Houston, Texas

Dorothy Goddard Shot Over Use Of Old Passage

SEP 15 1941

C. V. BARNES, WHITE, FACES TRIAL IN GIRL'S DEATH; HAD TROUBLE OVER ROAD BEFORE

ANGLETON.—(Special to the Labor News) — Dorothy Goddard, 13-year-old Douglas School student was shot through the head here last Saturday evening by C. V. Barnes, white, because the girl attempted to run while he was arguing with her mother, Mrs. T. Goddard and a friend, Major Muse.

The dispute between the farmer and Mrs. Goddard came up over the use of a road which ran through the farm Barnes operated. As the discussion grew heated Dorothy leaped from the car and started running down the road. Barnes drew his rifle and shot one time the bullet entering her head and killing her instantly.

SEP 15 1941

The road over which the argument, leading to the slaying, started, runs for about two miles across the farm which Barnes works, about 18 miles northwest of Angleton.

During the examining trial which was held Thursday it was unearthed that Barnes has on several occasions engaged in arguments with Negroes over the use of the road which leads directly to a Negro settlement near the Ramsey Prison Farm.

Barnes was arrested last Sunday.

Justice F. C. Cannon said that it was the third time that Barnes' arguments with Negroes over the use of the road had come to the attention of the court.

He said, "About two years ago Barnes was involved in a fight with a Negro on the road. No action was taken in that case.

SEP 15 1941

"Then some time later Barnes was indicted by the grand jury on a charge of assault to murder in connection with the shooting of another Negro on that road. That case is still pending, as far as I know."

J. A. Fite of Houston is the owner of the property on which the road is located.

Although the road does cross the farm it was termed by Justice Cannon as "a public road."

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

WHITE MAN STABS TO DEATH AGED NEGRO ON TRIAL FOR LIFE IN CROWDED TEXAS COURTROOM

DEC 6 - 1941

Defendant Charged With the Slaying of 19-Year-Old Wife of Angered Man

RELEASED ON $5,000.00 BOND

LUFKIN, Texas—(ANP)—The stabbing to death of Mott Flournory, 70-year-old defendant on trial for his life here last Monday, brought Texas courtroom slayings up to a total of two during the period of less than six months. Flournory was stabbed by Roy Morehouse, white, husband of the woman Flournory was charged with slaying.

Before the crowded courtroom audience, in the presence of officers and court attaches, Morehouse moved near where the aged defendant sat, reached over his right shoulder and plunged a pocket knife blade deep into his right chest.

DEC 6 - 1941

Bedlam broke out in the courtroom and Negro spectators fled from the court in fear.

According to Sheriff H. C. Billingsley, charges would be filed against Morehouse who surrendered after the slaying. In the meantime, Morehouse declared "I can sleep tonight. It will be the first night since my wife was killed."

Within 40 minutes after the killing, Morehouse was freed on $5,000 bond signed by 44 Angelina county and Lufkin white people. Many bystanders rushed up to congratulate Morehouse on his deed.

DEC 6 - 1941

Defense attorneys appointed by the court to defend Flourney were out of the courtroom when the slaying occured, preparing a motion to squash the venire list on a technical legal point.

Flournory had been charged with attempted assault and slaying of Morehouse's 19-year-old wife on Aug. 14 at a farmhouse two miles east of Lufkin. Morehouse, a shipping clerk, is 25 years old.

Reminiscent of the Bob White slaying in Conroe, Texas, on June 10 this year is the Flourney slaying. White, on trial for life, was shot and killed in the court room by W. S. Cochran, Texas landowner. White was accused of attacking Cochran's wife.

In the case of Bob White, a white jury tried Cochran and in two minutes freed him of all charges. He was found "not guilty" in the same courtroom in which he had shot White in the back and in cold blood.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Slayer Released On $10,000 Bond

DEC 11 1941

ANGLETON, Tex.—(SNS) — The release of C. V. Barnes, white farm overseer on a $10,000 bond after he shot and killed 13-year-old Dorothy Godley near here last month, is being investigated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Barnes was charged with murder with malice.

DEC 11 1941

Reports show that the child, her mother and a Major Muse were driving a car along a county road on their way to the farm where Mrs. Godley lives. Because the ruts in the road were too deep for the car to travel, testimony brought out, Muse, who was driving, turned the car to make a short detour.

At about that time, reports state Barnes appeared, and the child cried out "There's that man!"

Mrs. Godley and Muse testified that Barnes came up to the car, cursed them, accused them of trying to "steal pecans", and told them to "get out and stay out."

The little girl, frightened, stepped from the car. Barnes shot once, the bullet striking the child in the face and killing her instantly.

According to local press reports, Barnes is already under indictment for shooting and wounding another Negro.

Houston Negro Fatally Shot at Dry Goods Store

DEC 25 1941

John Earl Anderson, 38-year-old negro of 2200 Dec. was fatally shot at the Weiner dry goods store at 3305 Lyons Wednesday night.

Witnesses said he snatched some socks from a counter and ran out with them. Six pairs of socks were found on him after the shooting.

Freddie Brooks, negro floorwalker in the store, was charged before Justice W. C. Ragan with murder.

Brooks told Justice Ragan he saw Anderson grab the socks, ran outside after him, and fired one shot with a pistol. Anderson ran about two blocks and fell to the street. He died on the way to Jefferson Davis hospital.

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
February 13, 1941

No Executions, 2 Life Sentences Result of 39 Murders Here

Average Term Given Is 6.73 Years

By DEVERTON CARPENTER

Richmond had thirty-nine homicides in 1940, and police arrested thirty-six persons on charges of committing the killings.

Two of those they charged with murder received life sentences.

Of the remainder who drew definite prison sentences, the average term of punishment for their crimes was 6.73 years.

These are some of the facts on homicide which a search through court records showed today:

The records revealed that sixteen of the thirty defendants who already have stood trial are free again after having been acquitted. The fact that the charges against them were dismissed does not mean, however, that the court thought the wrong man had been apprehended in each case. Many of them won their freedom when it was the court's decision that the homicide was justifiable.

Those who were found guilty received sentences ranging from one year in jail to life.

No Death Sentences During Last Year

A break-down of the sentences imposed showed that two received one-year terms, two received two-year terms, one a three-year term, three received five-year sentences, two received fifteen-year sentences, one received a twenty-year term and two received life. The Commonwealth entered a nolle prosse in one case, which meant that it was not prosecuted.

There were no death sentences passed last year. The most likely candidate for the electric chair would have been the slayer of Policeman John A. Tibbs last October if the murderer had been caught, judging from records of the last fifteen years, for in those fifteen years four persons have been electrocuted for murders in Richmond, and in each case the murderer killed a policeman.

All four were not sentenced specifically for slaying officers, as three of them killed not only policemen, but others as well. The notorious gangsters, Robert Mais and William Legenza, were executed for killing E. M. Huband, a truck driver.

MURDER CASES IN RICHMOND IN 1940

Total murders	39
Total arrests	36
Case cleared by suicide of murderer	1
Cases uncleared by arrests	2
Cases pending in court	5
Defendants acquitted	16
Life sentences	2
Nolle prosse	1
Juvenile sent to State Industrial School	1
Others sentenced	11
Average of the eleven sentences (years)	6.73

but in their career of crime they shot Policeman W. A. Toots to death when they fought their way out of City Jail on Sept. 29, 1934.

Negroes Commit Greatest Number of Homecides

Polly Francis, a Negro, was electrocuted on March 19, 1926, for killing Detective Sergeant Louis Bertucci. A month later Rudolph E. Disse died in the electric chair for shooting to death his girl friend, Vivian Tomlin Peers, but before the young murderer was captured he also had killed Detective Sergeant Burke of the Police Department as well as Henry Grady Carter, a rival for the girl's affections.

Although only one of those electrocuted during the last fifteen years for murder in Richmond was a Negro, last year's figures on homicide show that an overwhelming number of homicides were committed by Negroes.

According to the murder warrants, thirty-five of those

Only Two Cases Have No Arrests

charged with the crime were Negroes, three were white and the race of the slayer of Policeman Tibbs is unknown.

One Negro, Randolph Winston, was charged with two separate homicides during the year. In July police arrested him on a charge of slaying another Negro with an axe, but he was acquitted in Hustings Court. Then he was charged in December with cutting another Negro to death with a knife and his case is still pending.

Although police have not made arrests in three homicide cases of last year, only two cases are listed as not cleared by arrests. One murderer killed himself after slaying his wife.

Officers have no clues as to the identity of the slayer of Policeman Tibbs, but they hold a murder warrant for another man who is still a fugitive.

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
February 15, 1941

Leniency of Courts Held Factor in High Murder Rate Among Negroes Here

Environment Also Cited as Major Cause Of Numerous Race Crimes

By DEVERTON CARPENTER

Why were more than eleven times as many homicides committed by Negroes in Richmond last year than by white persons?

That question today was put to a group of Richmond Negroe leaders and white persons with knowledge of conditions among the city's Negro population.

Almost to a man they said the opinions they gave were "snap opinions," but the answers laid stress upon these two factors:

1. The environment of the Negro is such that a high rate of murder and other crimes results.

2. The courts appear to have a "dual standard" for Negroes and whites in murder and felonious assault trials; or, in other words Negroes who kill other Negroes are dealt with more lightly than Negroes who kill whites or whites who kill other whites.

Those questioned agreed that the first factor was a prime cause of the high Negro murder rate, but the point of the "dual standard" in the court was challenged, not by Negro but by white observers.

Included among those questioned were Dr. Henry J. McGuinn, Sociology Professor at Virginia Union University; L. R. Reynolds, director for Virginia and North Carolina of the Interracial Commission; Dr. William H. Hughes, Negro physician; Professor Gordon B. Hancock, of Virginia Union; A. G. Richardson, assistant supervisor of Negro education for the State Department of Education; Carrol Minor, probation officer for Federal District Court here; a judge and a psychiatrist.

Leniency of Courts Cited By Minor

Mr. Minor said it was his personal observation after studying court records in general that courts appear lenient in dealing with Negroes who commit offenses against other Negroes. He said judges are not exceptions in this leniency, although their attitude probably is sub-conscious. Lay juries, he added, appear most likely to be lenient in these cases.

Several of those interviewed said Negroes themselves have made numerous complaints that offenders of their race are not dealt with stiffly enough when they assault or murder their fellow Negroes.

This, they said, has led the Negro to take more lightly the maiming or slaying of a fellow race member than a similar offense against a white person. They pointed out that murders of whites by Negroes and the murders of whites by whites are punished severely and that there are fewer of this class of murder than murders of Negroes by Negroes.

Emphasis was placed upon punishing assault cases among the Negroes more severely, since, it was explained, every assault is a potential murder.

Another side was presented in this question of severe punishment, however.

The judge declared he has found that most Negro murders are unpremeditated and are thus in the second degree, a degree which carries a maximum punishment of twenty years. He said it was his opinion that circumstances around most Negro murders—not the mere fact the defendant is a Negro—determine the length of sentences given.

"Each individual defendant," he said, "in all justice should be sentenced according to the circumstances surrounding the crime; not according to the example he would make for others."

The psychiatrist expressed doubt that more severe punishment would be much of a deterrent in the Negro murders. He said the environment among Negroes appears to be the basic cause of the murders.

He expressed the opinion that idleness among Negroes and the fact that they are crowded together much more than the white race leads to assaults and murders. Persons who are packed together with other human beings who are idle and who have little to occupy their minds are likely to have more frequent and more violent flare-ups of resentment than persons in less crowded and better economic circumstances, he said.

This perhaps explains the fact that many Negro murders are crimes of passion committed in the heat of anger and frequently committed on the best friend of the murderer, it was pointed out.

Dr. Hughes and others said a program for removing the idleness and crowded conditions among Negroes would go far toward lowering the crime rate. Dr. Hughes observed that such steps as building the city's Negro swimming pool are in this direction, but he added that a much wider and more extensive program is needed.

Dr. McGuinn said it was his opinion that the high murder rate is "the symptom of a disease, not the disease itself."

The actual disease, he said, is the economic and social plight of the Negro. He and others stressed the need for adequate occupational training of Negroes and the opportunity to use this training in jobs.

Mr. Reynolds advanced the idea of hiring Negro policemen to control the Negro population.

The Negro leaders heartily endorsed this idea and argued that a Negro officer would understand his fellow Negro better and would get closer to him than could a white policeman. The chief value of the Negro officers, they emphasized, would be that he could get co-operation with their race in such a manner as to prevent crime.

Those interviewed said the question of the high Negro murder rate is one that has many factors to consider, one that cannot be solved with superficial study.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Va. Slayer Execution Held Again

MAR 15 1941

RICHMOND, Va. — A writ of error was granted this week to 23-year-old Virginia share-cropper, Odell Waller, whose conviction for the self-defense killing of his white landlord, Oscar Davis is being appealed by the Workers Defense League.

A stay of execution comes automatically with the writ of error. The stay is effective until final disposition of the appeal. The execution was originally set for December 27, 1940, and a stay was secured to March 14.

The next step must be the filing of a brief by the state of Virginia in answer to the Waller brief, after which the court will set a date to hear argument to set aside the conviction. This will probably be some time in April.

At the hearing before the court on February 24, Thomas H. Stone, Richmond W.D.L. attorney, who presented the factual side of the case, was joined by John F. Finerty, prominent attorney of Washington and New York, who maintained that the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing the equal protection of the law to all citizens was violated in the Waller trial.

MAR 15 1941

The Workers Defense League with the cooperation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and other organizations, intends to fight the case through to the court of last resort, according to W.D.L. secretary-treasurer, David L. Clendenin.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

Odell Waller

MAR 9 1941

ON March 14th Odell Waller will be executed in Virginia unless the machinery of law and justice step in to stay the execution. The Virginia youngster was condemned to die last December 27th by an all-white jury. It found him guilty of murder growing out of the slaying of his boss who refused to award Waller and his mother their share of the year's crops and threatened to kill the Negro boy for demanding his rights. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Workers Defense League have interested themselves in the merits of the case and are seeking funds to take the case to the United States Supreme court if need be.

MAR 9 1941

The case is timely for two reasons, namely, the proximity of the execution date and the fact that this week has been designated as sharecroppers week. The facts in Waller's case indicate how little rights a southern sharecropper is accorded by the laws of the South. It shows that he does not even have the right, as against his landlords wishes, to demand his share of the year's crops. He can not defend himself like other people—which is a right that has been recognized by all civilized people time since the memory of man "runneth not to the contrary." Waller's case further shows that he is deprived of the right of a trial by a jury made up of his peers in that the law requires one who serves on the jury to pay a poll tax. Sharecroppers do not make enough money to pay the Virginia accumulative poll tax. Therefore, jury service must necessarily be limited to those persons who represent the landed gentry of the South and who have little sympathy for sharecroppers and less for Negroes.

The organizations concerned with the defense of Waller have announced that they intend to have the question of the payment of the poll tax as a prerequisite to the right to serve on juries determined by the United States Supreme court.

MAR 9 1941

Waller is just one of a million sharecroppers whose rights have been ignored with impunity. The abuses of these sharecroppers must undergo are not limited to Negroes White sharecroppers, too, are abused almost as much as the Negroes. For that reason local labor organizations have taken up the fight to aid Waller and in so doing they aid all persons who are suffering from the tyranny of the South's sharecropper's system.

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sharecropper Waller Wins Writ Of Error

MAR 22 1941

MAR 22 1941

RICHMOND, Ma., Mar. 20—The Workers Defense League has won the second notable victory in its fight to save the life of Sharecropper Odell Waller and to strike a telling blow at the system of sharecropper exploitation and poll tax discrimination in the South. The Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals has granted a writ of error to the 23-year-old Virginia sharecropper whose conviction for the self-defense killing of his white landlord Oscar Davis, is being appealed by the Workers Defense League. The news was considered especially timely, as it came during National Sharecroppers Week, cosponsored jointly by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and the Workers Defense League, which is the union's official defense agency.

A stay of execution comes automatically with the writ of error. The stay is effective until final disposition of the appeal. The execution was originally set for December 27, 1940, and a stay was secured to March 14, 1941. The next step must be the filing of a brief by the State of Virginia in answer to the Waller brief, after which the court will set a date to hear argument to set aside the conviction. This will probably be some time in April.

MAR 22 1941

Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

Insane Negro Killer Is Slain By Posse

AUG 25 1941

STAUNTON, Va.—(AP)—State Police Lieutenant Robert A. Lynn said late Saturday that Charles Johnson, 36, former inmate of a Negro insane hospital, was shot and killed by a posse seeking him in the slaying of a deputy and the wounding of a sheriff a few hours earlier.

A member of the posse, Police Chief John M. Webb of Staunton, was shot twice in the arm by buckshot as six members of the group closed in on the Negro about a quarter of a mile from the latter's house.

Deputy Frank Armstrong, 40, was killed by a pistol bullet and Sheriff G. M. Gilkeson was wounded in the leg and shoulder when they went to Johnson's house at noon Saturday to arrest him on a lunacy warrant.

The Negro fled after the shooting.

AUG 25 1941

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

White Soldier Killed after Annoying Women

Lindsey Smith, 30, Gives Self Up; Says Men from Fort Eustis Chased Him and Threatened Life; Women Tell of "Reign of Terror"

JUN 28 1941

WILLIAMSBURG, Va.—Following the fatal shooting of Earl Finger, white, of Battery D, 13th Battalion, with a shot gun here Saturday night, Lindsey Smith, 30, gave himself up to police officers and was lodged in Henrico County jail at Richmond.

The shooting occurred after Smith, Finger and a corporal of Fort Eustis had engaged on a quarrel at a nearby filling station and Smith had been chased to his home. Smith was standing in the door of his home at 210 York Street when he allegedly fired the fatal shot after Finger had started up on the porch.

According to information, Finger and his partner had been molesting some of Smith's friends and neighbors before the quarrel occurred.

Annoyed Women, Charge

Miss Marible Moore told the AFRO that she, Miss Rosalie Randall, Mrs. Zennie Randall and Mrs. Geneva Moore, were sitting on the porch of her home when Finger and his soldier friend came up and began a friendly conversation with them.

Afraid, she said, they pleaded for them to go away. Smith, who had been to the store for his mother, heard the women's plea and asked the soldiers to refrain from bothering them.

Finger then is said to have set out after Smith and ran him to a filling station near Smith's home. Smith then ran home, with Finger right on his heels.

Mrs. James Smith, mother of Young Smith, told the AFRO that she was sitting on her porch when she heard her son screaming, telling the soldier to go back

Mother Gives Details

Relating how she had been ill for more than a year from three operations and was pumping medicine into her system to keep going, Mrs. Smith said her son ran upon the porch and into the house. She told how she pleaded with Finger to leave the grounds. But he cursed her, and said he would kill the d——.

All the time, she related, Finger was holding his hand in his hip pocket as young Smith returned to the door and fired a load of shot into the chest of the Fort Eustis soldier.

According to reports, soldiers have made it a habit of walking into the homes of colored people here, cursing, asking for whiskey and women. Mr. Smith, father of young Smith, said that at three different times soldiers have walked into his front door and on back to the kitchen, asking for women.

Soldiers Solicit Woman

At one time, he said, he threw one out and called officers who didn't call the camp, reporting the soldier.

Early Stuart, nearly 80 years old, told the AFRO that his wife had been molested by soldiers who asked her to take a ride with them.

The Smith house sits in a fork where the Richmond highway and the one leading through Williamsburg meet. At this junction soldiers stand and hitch hike. All day Sunday, officers stayed on duty preventing the soldiers from standing there.

Although several cases of disorderly conduct by Fort Eustis soldiers had been reported to local police, Mrs. Smith said army officers termed the actions of the dead soldier as outrageous and that the camp had received no complaint from local police.

Local clubs, churches and organizations are busy raising funds to defend young Smith, whose trial comes up Friday. He is charged with first degree murder. Colored women, especially, are afraid to walk the streets at night and resort to taxis when making calls or attending to business. Young girls are strictly forbidden to go out.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Blasted Entering Doorway

Citizen Defends Home and Honor Of Race Women

JUN 28 1941

BULLETIN

Fate Johnson of 632-24th Street, Newport News, on Monday was held for questioning in the case. Dr. J. M. Henderson, James City county coroner, held an inquest Monday afternoon into the death of Corporal Finger, but no verdict was returned.

Staff Correspondence

WILLIAMSBURG, Va.—Because he attempted to defend the honor of his home and of the womanhood of his race, from the sexual designs of white soldiers on leave from Fort Eustis, Lindsay Smith was spirited away to the Henricho jail in Richmond Sunday, pending a preliminary hearing here Friday morning at ten o'clock on a first degree murder charge in connection with the death of Corporal Earl B. Finger of Fort Eustis.

Smith gave himself up voluntarily to the local police Sunday morning.

The story behind this unfortunate incident as told to the Journal and Guide-Newport News Star by responsible leaders and citizens Monday morning is summed up as follows:

WOMEN ATTACKED

Saturday night, two white soldiers attacked some colored girls on York Street. Smith interceded on their behalf and pleaded with the soldiers to leave them alone. A fight ensued. Smith ran to his home at 210 York Street where the soldiers pursued him.

Mrs. James Smith, mother of the prisoner, who has been under the care of a physician for 18 months, stood in the hallway of the Smith home, and pleaded with the soldiers to go away, but they insisted on invading the threshold. It was at this point that the fatal shooting took place.

Shortly after the affray, three colored sergants from Fort Eustis appeared on the scene, Sergeants Robinson, Foggy and Harrison; they made inquiries and returned to their post.

WOMEN SOLICITED

The Guide-Star was informed that, on four previous occasions, white soldiers attempted to invade Negro homes, accosting persons with the inquiry, "Where can we find some colored women."

Military police from the Fort were promptly assigned to patrol the Negro residential area in the wake of the incident.

That no further trouble is anticipated, and that the cordial relations between the races—a matter of pride through the years to the community—will not be ruffled by the unfortunate event, were assured the Guide-Star by representative leaders.

KEEP TROOPS IN CAMP

Colored soldiers at the Fort have been prohibited temporarily from visiting Williamsburg, while white soldiers are under orders to stay away from the Negro district.

Racial and interracial agencies banded together Monday to cooperate in the interest of justice and fair-play to the prisoner.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Two Sentenced To Death for Slaying Girl

By the Associated Press

Lovingston, Va., Nov. 7.—Charles T. Johnson, jr., and William Henry Diggs, 19-year-old Negroes, were found guilty and sentenced to death in the electric chair in Nelson County Circuit Court today on charges of murdering Gladys Mae Tyree, 18, Appomattox High School senior.

The court sentenced the pair to die in the electric chair at the State Penitentiary in Richmond, January 16, 1942.

Johnson was convicted by a special jury which returned its verdict 10 minutes after receiving the case.

Diggs, who waived jury trial, was tried yesterday before Judge Edward Meeks, who deferred passing sentence pending Johnson's trial by jury today.

Both Johnson and Diggs were indicted on charges of murder, rape and robbery, but were tried only on the murder charges.

The two entered pleas of innocent.

State police and local officers headed a search for Miss Tyree after her family reported she had failed to return from a trip to a store at Gladstone on the afternoon of October 18. Her body was found early the next morning.

At Johnson's trial today, Hope Christian, the first member of the searching party to reach the girl's body, repeated testimony given at Diggs' trial yesterday, as to how he found the body in the woods.

The girl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Tyree, also took the stand today. Mrs. Tyree related at the trial of Diggs how she became uneasy when Gladys failed to return from a trip to the store.

A statement which State Police Sergt. L. L. Stanley testified Johnson had signed in the presence of Stanley and Detective Capt. W. D. Torrence, of Lynchburg, was admitted as evidence and read to the Court. In the statement Johnson related how he met the girl on the road and attacked her.

On the stand in his own defense, Johnson denied raping the girl and testified that Diggs suggested they get the girl's watch, that he (Johnson) caught her by the arm and that Diggs choked her, threw her down and pulled her into the woods. Johnson sadi he took her watch and gove it to Diggs after Diggs said the girl was dead.

Johnson testified he signed the statement because State police choked him and said they would help him if he confessed.

Stanley and State Trooper L. F. Payne denied that Johnson was choked and testified that Johnson was treated kindly and made the statement voluntarily.

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

Va. Supreme Court Affirms Waller's Death Sentence

STANTON, Va.—The Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals last week affirmed the conviction and sentence of death of Odell Waller, 24-year-old colored sharecropper who shot his white landlord in self-defense, it is alleged, in a dispute over crop shares.

The court held that non-payers of poll tax are not excluded from either grand or petit juries by Virginia's constitution or laws. It did not pass on the factual question as to whether non-payers of poll tax are, in fact, excluded. The court held that the jury's verdict was justified by evidence, overruling the arguments of counsel as to the alleged improper admission of evidence and of the unfairness of a trial before a prejudiced jury, composed exclusively of payers of the poll tax, ten of whom wer themselves landlords and employers of sharecroppers.

Carl Raushenbush, Workers Defense League chairman, announced that attorneys John F. inerty and Thomas H. Stone are shortly to file in the courts of irginia a petition for habeas corpus based on sworn evidence that non-payers of poll tax are, in fact, systematically excluded from both the grand and petit juries in Pittsylvania County, where Waller was convicted, and wer so excluded in his case. The time in which such a petition can be filed is short, for, as soon as the mandate of the Supreme Court of Virginia is filed in the Circuit Court in which Waller was convicted, Waller will be resentenced and his execution under the law, will probably be set for ten days after such resentence. Application, however, has been made to the Governor of Virginia for further stay of execution to permit disposition o fan application for habeas corpus. This denied, counsel would apply to the U. S. Supprem Court for such a writ, and for a stay of execution.

Should the Supreme Court of Virginia refuse, on a writ of habeas corpus, to set aside Wallor's conviction, counsel will immediately ask review by the Supreme Court of the United States of any scuh refusal. It therefore appears probable that, in any event, the whole poll tax issue will shortly come before the Supreme Court of the United States.

The NAACP, which is cooperating with the Workers Defense eague, stated this week that it will continue to assist in the fight to save Waller's life.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
October 15, 1941

Waller's 'Peers'

The Constitution of Virginia provides (Section 8 of the Bill of Rights) that an accused person "shall not be deprived of life or liberty, except by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers." The word "peers" (or equals) refers to the members of the jury. The United States Supreme Court has held that a Negro is denied his constitutional right to trial by his peers if he is convicted by a jury from which Negroes were excluded solely because of their race.

It is the logic of this ruling that the defense invoked in the case of Odell Waller, the Negro sharecropper who, in September 1940, killed an unarmed Pittsylvania County farmer on whose lands he worked following a quarrel over shares in a wheat crop. In appealing the conviction and death sentence, the defendant charged, among other things, that the jury which convicted him was chosen exclusively from poll-tax payers, and that this limitation had the effect of excluding Negroes from the jury and of vitiating it as a jury of his peers.

The State Supreme Court of Appeals, in affirming the conviction on Monday, rejected all assignments of error. As to the poll tax argument, it pointed out that it rested on a *presumption* that the jurors were taken from a list of poll-tax payers, and not on *proof*. But even if the presumption was a fact, the court went on to say, the accused was "in no position to complain of such discrimination had it existed," because there was no evidence in the record to show whether he himself "had or had not paid a poll tax."

As far as the Virginia courts are concerned, the Waller case has come to an end, with the death sentence now affirmed. The case has been made the subject of a national agitation and one may therefore expect an effort to take it to the Supreme Court of the United States on the issue of a denial of justice on race grounds. In the Waller case these grounds, it must be admitted, are by no means as convincing as those which moved the United States Supreme Court to set aside the Scottsboro convictions where racial exclusions from juries were practiced with unconcealed intent.

There is no evidence that the jury in the Waller case was intentionally drawn from a list of poll-taxpayers, or if so that the object was to exclude Negroes from the jury. The second point would have to be proved even after the first point was conceded, for a list of poll-taxpayers in Pittsylvania County would not necessarily be all-white because they are poll-taxpayers. There are Negro poll-taxpayers in Pittsylvania County too.

The observation of Chief Justice Campbell (author of the court's opinion) that the indefiniteness of the accused's own status as a poll-taxpayer deprives him of the right to make that point an issue in the composition of the jury, puzzles us. Suppose Waller had been too poverty-stricken to pay his poll taxes. Would failure to pay his poll taxes in that event impaired in the slightest his constitutional right to question the legality of a jury whose selection from a list of white poll-taxpayers was a proved fact? Suppose the jury had been picked from a list of Democrats. Would an accused person lose his right to attack such a method of selection because he was not himself a Democrat? What has an accused's status as a taxpayer to do with his right to a trial by his peers?

The Virginia poll tax (especially as a voting prerequisite) is, in our opinion, a mischievous and undemocratic institution. The weakness of the Waller case's challenge of it, lies in the fact that the Virginia poll tax is not a prerequisite to jury service. One may be a juror without being a payer of poll taxes or of any other kind of taxes. But if it could have been shown—as the court says it was not shown but merely alleged without proof—that the Pittsylvania County jury that convicted Waller was arbitrarily and for purposes of racial discrimination chosen from a list of poll-taxpayers, how could it be maintained that because the accused was himself not a payer of poll taxes he lacked any right of challenge open to any accused person under the Constitution and Bill of Rights, whether a taxpayer or a pauper?

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

WALLER GIVEN REPRIEVE TO MARCH 20, 1942

DEC 20 1941

Death Sentence Delayed For Slayer Of Landlord At Gretna In 1940

RICHMOND, Va.—The execution of Odell Waller, 24-year-old sharecropper, for the shooting of his white landlord, Oscar Davis, at Gretna, Va., in 1940 in a dispute over crop shares, was stayed last week until March 20, 1942 by Gov. James H. Price of Virginia in response to appeals by Workers Defense league attorneys for time for the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia to act upon a writ of habeas corpus which raises the poll tax issue.

The petition for a writ of habeas corpus, filed last week in Virginia's highest court, uncovered an 1870 Act of Congress which, according to the Workers Defense league which is handling Waller's defense, may give the Supreme Court of the United States a new basis for holding payment of a poll tax unconstitutional as a qualification for voting.

The court cannot act on the petition until it reassembles January 12, 1942, according to reports from Thomas H. Stone of Richmond and John F. Finerty of New York, attorneys for Waller.

DEC 20 1941

The poll tax issue was raised because Odell Waller was tried by a jury composed exclusively of payers of Virginia's $1.50 cumulative poll tax. The petition for a writ of habeas corpus presented proof that non-payers of pall taxes were systematically barred from voting lists and from grand and petit juries in Pittsylvania county, Virginia, where the trial occurred, and that not a single non-payer was found on any jury list.

Of the 30,000 eligible voters in the county, only 6.000, about 20 per cent paid poll taxes in 1940.

The petition argued the illegality of the poll tax, reevaling a new angle in legal steps against the tax which prevents six million whites and four million Negroes in eight southern states from voting.

The 1870 Act of Congress, passed January 26, 1870, when readmitting Virginia to representation in Congress provides that the "Constitution of Virginia shall never be so amended or changed as to deprive any citizen or class of citizens of the United States of the right to vote who are entitled to vote by the Constitution herein recognized."

The petition charged that the Virginia constitution referred to was changed in 1902 in violation of this Act of Congress.

Since that time the payment of poll tax has been used as a qualification for voting and for the voting lists used in the selection of grand and petit juries.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Sharecropper Granted Review in Slaying

MAR 5 - 1941 33

Richmond, Va., March 4. (AP).—Odell Waller, a colored sharecropper, won a writ of error from the State supreme court of appeals today in his legal fight to escape the death sentence decreed by a Pittsylvania Circuit Court jury for the shooting and killing of Oscar Davis, a white farmer, last summer.

His attorneys contended in the petition that ther ewas prejudice on the part of the trial court.